NMC opens school year with increased enrollment. PAGE 2
'US Air Force divert operations on Tinian not yet final' PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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XTRAirways flights to NMI at risk

BEA CABRERA

"Unless we get a chance to get this reversed, the program is in jeopardy and that would be a real shame," said XTRAirways Pacific operations manager Thomas Nolte at the Commonwealth Ports Authority board meeting yesterday.

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantrubune.com
REPORTER

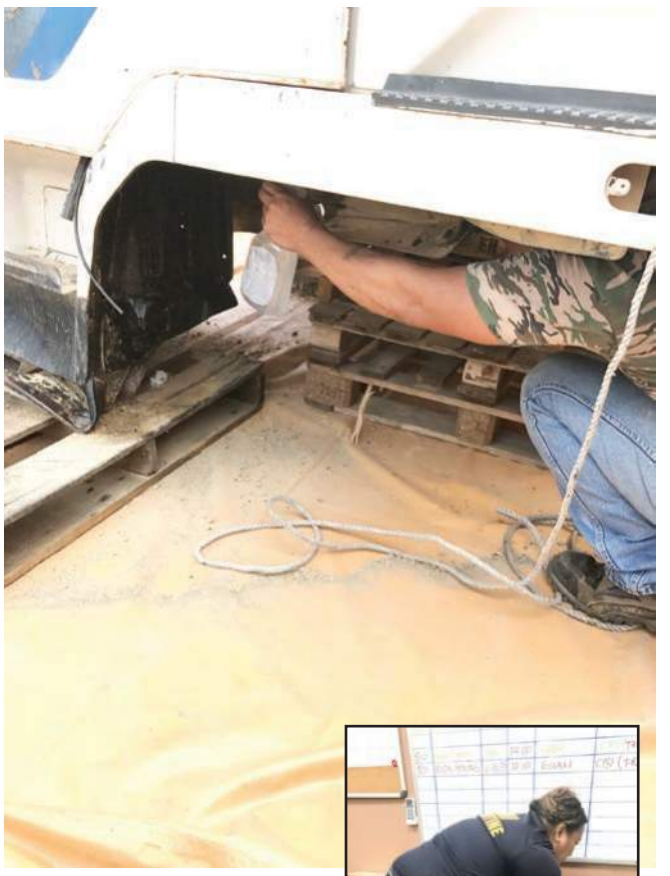
XTRAirways' plan to launch China-Saipan flights on Sept. 20 could be scuttled after U.S. Customs and Border Protection withdrew the airline's landing rights.

The Federal Aviation Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation earlier approved the Florida-based carrier's application to fly to the CNMI. It now appears that the landing right earlier reserved for XTRAirways has been given to Beijing Capital Airlines.

"To our surprise, they say we don't have landing rights here even though we have proof that CBP gave XTRAi-

See XTRAIRWAYS on Page 4

Quarantine intercepts prohibited items



Quarantine inspectors conducting a search of a commercial truck intercept prohibited and undeclared items. Other photo shows an inspector safeguarding the confiscated soil that will be incinerated. The tarp and soil will also be incinerated.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In a recent inspection of cargo at the Port of Saipan, CNMI quarantine officers intercepted undeclared and prohibited items imported by P&A Corp.

During the initial hold of cargo to search for imported monosodium glutamate seasoning, inspectors found several undeclared items consisting of syringes with medicinal fluids used on pigs and cows.

The inspectors noted that the inspection also uncovered soil on the cabin of the commercial truck used to carry the undeclared items, which is a prohibited movement from foreign countries into U.S. territory.

Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente said the importation of live veterinary vaccines, viruses, microorganisms, pathogenic organisms, and parasites is prohibited by law unless a permit is issued prior to importation.

"Quarantine had intercepted the vehicle and conducted the removal of soil from the bottom of the cabin as well as other parts of the vehicle. We want to let our business community know that any agricultural substances are prohibited, especially when not declared or fully documented. These substances have been confiscated and are awaiting consignee to pay for incineration," Benavente said.

Strict enforcement has

See QUARANTINE on Page 4

Man, 33, gets 12 years in prison for sex abuse of minor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 33-year-old man who sexually abused a girl since she was in first grade until she was in fourth grade was slapped with a 12-year prison term yesterday.

Sidney A. Aldan was sentenced to 20 years in prison, all suspended except for 12 years, for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

In a letter that Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo read in court, the victim said that she continues "to suffer until this day."

"She is still deeply suffering," said Govendo, citing that, in the letter, the now 15-year-old victim even thought of killing herself due to the trauma of what Aldan did to her.

Aldan was actually ac-

See MAN on Page 4

DUE TO COURT RULING IN MALPRACTICE SUIT

CHC stops non-emergent surgeries

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center has stopped performing non-emergent surgeries since Aug. 16 in the wake of a Superior Court finding that provisions of the Government Liability Act are unconstitutional.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muña notified the Office of Attorney General last week that the hospital would stop performing non-emergent surgical procedures starting last Tuesday, Aug. 16, until the Superior Court finding is overturned.

Emergent care is usually defined to mean an immediate threat to a person's life, a threat of grave disability, and active childbirth. Non-emergent care is usually everything else.

In a declaration last Thursday, Muña said she was ad-

See CHC on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
A Johnson & Johnson is ordered to pay a record $417 million to a woman.

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NATION
"It was amazing. It looked like a banana peel, like a glowing banana peel."

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ASIA
Donald Trump recommitted the United States to the 16-year-old war in Afghanistan.

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Local

Northern Marianas College students gather for lunch at the newly remodeled student cafeteria during the first day of class. The college enrolled about 1,200 students this fall 2017 semester.
VICTORIA DELEON GUERRERO/NMC

NMC opens school year with increased enrollment

Northern Marianas College started the fall 2017 semester by welcoming about 1,200 students to campus.

According to the college, the number of full-time equivalent students who have enrolled for the fall 2017 semester is 1,168 as of Aug. 21, 2017. This is an increase of more than 6 percent over the same period last year. This figure is expected to rise even more since many students are still registering this week.

"The college continues to post strong enrollment numbers as more and more students are looking to NMC for their educational and professional goals," said Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Full-Time Equivalency, more commonly known as FTE, is calculated by taking the total number of credits students have registered for and dividing that figure by 12 (the minimum number needed to be a full-time student).

"Our team at NMC has been working hard these past few months to prepare the campus for the opening of the school year," said Fernandez. "They have a lot to look forward to, including new renovations that include classroom enhancements and the newly remodeled student cafeteria."

Fernandez also stated that many students who are enrolled this semester are government and private sector employees that are part of the Prior Learning Assessment Program, which awards college credit for demonstrable college-level learning obtained outside the traditional classroom setting.

"We are extremely thankful to Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and the CNMI Scholarship Office for their support of the PLA program," Fernandez added. "Mayor [Efraim] Atalig from Rota and Mayor [Joseph Patrick] San Nicolas from Tinian have also been supportive of NMC's programs on their islands."

To help welcome students to the new school year, the Associated Students of NMC—the student government body—has planned a weeklong of activities that include a block party, a college fair, a coffee connection social, and other events.

"We want to engage the students as much as we can by hosting many activities throughout the school year," said Kenneth Gabrido, AS-NMC student president.

In addition to the students enrolled in credit programs, the college also has numerous noncredit and extension programs that serve thousands of individuals every year. These programs include NMC's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, the Community Development Institute, the Adult Basic Education Program, and other certificate programs to better serve the community. ***(NMC)***

Aging Center enhances facilities

Congregants of the Aging Center will be pleasantly surprised once they check out the center's enhanced facilities, according to Office on Aging director Walter Manglona.

Renovations and enhancements have been made to the center throughout the week and enhancements are still being made with the additional equipment that were donated to the *man'amko*.

Among the enhancement are a surround sound system in the main hall of the facility, a computerized bingo system, a brand new table for table tennis, a library, a new karaoke system and television, a computer station, and many more.

According to Manglona, the enhancements were intended to give back to the *man'amko* for all their years of service. They also keep the *man'amko* energized and active.

At the same time, the new features would encourage more *man'amko* to keep visiting the center and mingling with their peers.

According to Manglona, senior citizens oftentimes keep to themselves because there aren't much people to talk to at home. The center gives them an alternative, a place where the *man'amko* can come to and talk to their peers and remain social, he said. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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‘US Air Force divert operations on Tinian not yet final’

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has not made a final decision on the proposed Pacific Air Force Divert Exercises and Activities on Tinian that is estimated to release $375 million to improve the Tinian International Airport by building additional facilities and infrastructure.

“There is no stage of negotiation yet for leasing the property or award for construction. You can see that there is no construction going on,” said CPA board member Barrie Toves.

Last July, the U.S. Air Force disclosed that it would hold a public hearing on Tinian on its Pacific Air Force Divert Exercises and Activities.

The Air Force plans to use the Tinian airport for its divert operations, humanitarian assistance staging, exercises, and other aircraft support activities. All operations will take place within a maximum of eight weeks per year of exercises at the Tinian airport.

Toves said, “There is no negotiations yet because the first step for us is to submit the airport plan to the Federal Aviation Administration so that they [can check whether what] the U.S. Air Force is planning to build on the north side of the Tinian airport facility is conducive and not in violation of any regulation of the FAA.”

“The FAA is the agency that checks all the changes that we do. Whatever infrastructure we plan to do, we need to submit a draft of the lay-out plan for them to see,” he added.

As chairman of the airport facilities committee, Toves is convinced that, even though the U.S. Air Force has removed the CNMI Joint Military Training infrastructure-related projects at the airport, there is a concern of overlapping with the proposed PACAF Divert and Exercises and Activities.

“If you look at the layout plan, when CJMT and the PACAF divert airfield are put together, the requirements with the CJMT still overlaps with the divert airfield. Take out the CJMT and one can still see the residue underneath. Why not make some changes that will accommodate the CJMT?” Toves said.

Many more questions surround the PACAF Divert Exercises and Activities and the CPA is doing its best to know all the facts and prioritize the people of Tinian who are directly affected by the military operations.

“Before we open the door and submit to FAA, we want to make sure that we are in line in protecting the CPA’s best interest and especially the economy of Tinian. A lot of things associated with CJMT would affect the economy of Tinian and we don’t want that to happen.” Toves said.

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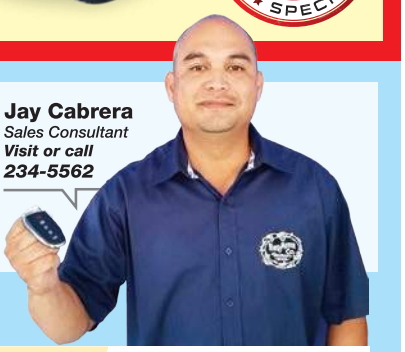

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Senate OK's Holly nomination to CUC board

The Senate approved last week Matthew Holly's nomination to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, inching closer to the board's revival.

According to Holly, CUC is still faced with "many challenges" but the corporation has "plans already in place."

"… We still have a ways to go," said Holly in an interview.

He cited the 58-percent non-revenue water loss caused by leaks. He said there has been "some improvement" on the matter.

"We need to continue in that front and see where we are falling short," he said, adding that restoring public trust and practicing transparency remains his priorities.

Holly joins both Weston Deleon Guerrero, whose nomination the Senate approved at an earlier date, and Commonwealth Development Authority's Ignacio Perez on the CUC board.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Aug. 10, 2017, nominated Miranda V. Manglona and Jovita Paulino to the CUC board, representing Rota and Tinian, respectively.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations has yet to hold public hearings on the two nominations. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

MAN

From Page 1

cused of sexually abusing two girls. He pleaded guilty to the charge relating to one of the victims as part of a plea deal.

Aldan will not be eligible for parole. He was given credit for 541 days of time served. Once he completes his sentence, he will be placed on eight years of probation.

Aldan was ordered to pay a $2,000 fine, $125 in court costs, plus probation fees, among other conditions.

Before the judge handed down the sentence, Aldan apologized to the victim and to the CNMI.

The victim's statement, Govendo said, was the main aggravating factor and shows that that she is still suffering to this day. Had there been sexual penetration, Aldan would have gotten the maximum sentence, Govendo said.

In her letter, the girl said described Aldan as a "monster" who took her childhood. The girl stated, among other things, that she is always worried, scared, has nightmares, and even thought about ending her life.

"I'm crying at this moment," said the girl in the letter. She and her family now live in Guam.

The judge said that Aldan's sentence sends a message to the community that these acts of sexual abuse and sexual assault are not going to be tolerated.

Under the plea agreement, the parties agreed that the sentence will be between eight years to 20 years imprisonment.

Chief Prosecutor Michele Harris recommended 20 years of imprisonment. She said the victim in this case is a very young vulnerable child.

Harris said that Aldan first sexually abused the victim when she was in first grade, then escalated until she was in fourth grade.

She pointed out that Aldan has a history of violence against his intimate partner that led to the court's issuance of a restraining order.

"The victim's letter still speaks to the trauma that she has experienced," Harris said.

Aldan's lawyer, assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, recommended an eight-year prison sentence, saying Aldan is remorseful, has pleaded guilty, and that no weapon was used.

Dominski said Aldan is young and a hardworking man for his family.

Police said that, according to the victim, Aldan had been sexually abusing her since she was in first grade and that the last incident occurred when she was in fourth grade.

Police said the incident happened from March 2011 to 2013.

According to the second girl, Aldan touched her private parts thrice. The second girl claimed that the first victim once wrote a letter to her, saying Aldan touched her also.

The second girl said her mother found the letter and confronted her if Aldan was also sexually abusing her. The second girl then told her mother.

Aldan then fled to Guam.

A Crime Stoppers' tip led to Aldan's arrest in March 2016 in Koblerville.

CHC

From Page 1

vised by the OAG of the implications of the court's ruling as it relates to CHCC's physicians, including those who perform surgical procedures.

Muna said she was advised that the court's opinion could lead to a surgeon being denied government's substitution as defendant if sued with respect to a surgery performed in the scope of his or her job.

Under the ruling, in the event a surgeon is found liable, he or she would only be able to expect indemnification by the government if the Legislature makes an appropriation.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued the ruling in connection with the malpractice lawsuit filed by couple Remedio Elameto and Pedro Pua against the CNMI government and doctors Gary Ramsey and Rajee Iyer.

Camacho's order, dated Aug. 11, 2017, invalidates the substitution provisions of the Government Liability Act.

Camacho ruled that the Government Liability Act's damages cap, substitution provision, prohibition on punitive damages, and restriction on the availability of jury trials fail constitutional examination.

Muña issued the declaration in support of the OAG's and Ramsey's request for the Superior Court's to stay the case, pending their appeal of Camacho's ruling to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Muña said that medical malpractice insurance is not available in the Commonwealth, apparently because the size of the medical community in the CNMI is "too small to create a sufficient risk pool."

Muña met with CHCC's surgical staff last Aug. 14 and informed them of the court's decision and that the surgical staff indicated they were unwilling to perform surgical procedures as the risk of personal liability is too great without protection.

CHC is the only hospital and surgical facility on Saipan.

Without willing surgeons, the delivery of healthcare in the Commonwealth is and will be severely impaired, and life and limb are in danger as a result of the court's ruling, Muña said.

Assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington, counsel for the government, and Colin M. Thompson, counsel for Ramsey, said the Commonwealth requires action to be taken immediately to prevent the cessation of surgical procedures at CHC.

Brasington and Thompson said Ramsey requires action before Aug. 24, 2017, to prevent the burdens of litigation imposed by the denial of substitution from occurring.

Last Aug. 17, the Commonwealth filed an interlocutory appeal before the high court to secure appellate review of Camacho's order.

Brasington and Thompson said the application of the right to privacy to medical malpractice suits is a serious and novel issue, with significant constitutional dimensions.

The lawyers said the hardships faced by defendants—the reduced access to healthcare for the CNMI people and the loss of absolute immunity by Ramsey—sharply outweigh the burden of delay that Elameto and Pua would face.

Camacho issued an order last Aug. 18 setting for Aug. 28 at 1:30pm the hearing on defendants' request to immediately conduct a hearing on their joint motion.

Camacho said the government's declaration states that medical malpractice insurance may be needed and the court notes this may be an interim economic hardship.

Furthermore, Camacho said, the government's declaration states that CHC doctors will continue to perform emergency operations.

The judge said he recognizes this economic hardship and balances it with the CNMI constitutional rights of Elameto and Pua.

"It is important to not just get a quick solution, but also a correction solution and that is why the court is asking both parties to submit briefs," Camacho said.

Elameto and Pua are suing the CNMI government and two former CHC doctors—Iyer and Ramsey—for medical malpractice, bad faith, and emotional distress and loss of consortium.

Elameto claimed that a surgical team at CHC left a 15-centimeter-long surgical clamp in her abdomen during a surgery to address her irregular periods and ovarian cysts at CHC on Saipan in August 2000.

It was in June 2014, or almost 14 years later, when the surgical clamp was discovered and removed at Guam Memorial Hospital.

QUARANTINE

From Page 1

curbed illegal importations, but that agricultural importations remain a concern.

In mid-July, Division of Customs director Jose Mafnas highlighted the improvements of the customs operations, specifically detection and sanctions of undeclared commodities.

"Strict enforcement, which has steadily progressed since last year, has allowed our inspection process to increase revenue generation and allow our officers to better detect suspicious importations. Scrutinizing the detection of undervalued high tax rate commodities, detection of undeclared commodities, and increasing the fines and sanctions of counterfeit goods have definitely benefitted the economy," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres commended the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Division of Customs for their work in the recent interception and that this vigilance continues to play a crucial role in protecting the CNMI's borders.

"Our customs and inspection officers are on our frontlines, and their work in intercepting illegal substances and prohibited agricultural items has safeguarded our islands. The prevention and eradication of contagious and infectious diseases among animals and plant products is always a concern, and I thank our inspectors for their ongoing commitment," Torres said. ***(PR)***

XTRAIRWAYS

From Page 1

rways permission and approval as of early June. According to CBP Director for NMI Robert Havens, that slot has been given as of late June to Beijing Capital Airlines," said XTRAirways Pacific Operations manager Thomas Nolte.

"The problem at the moment is, unless we get a chance to get this reversed, the program is in jeopardy and that would be a real shame," he added.

Speaking to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board yesterday, Nolte explained the challenges that XTRAirways have to go through less than a month before its maiden flight to the CNMI.

"We are kind of at a loss where to go. But we are looking for ideas on how we could go around this issue because it is a difficult one. USDOT has nothing to do with it. We have an attorney in Washington to assist there on our behalf for DOT and FAA. We have been told that the proper channel for this is here because it is considered a local issue, as far as coordinating with CBP," Nolte said.

Nolte said that XTRAirways has already spent millions of dollars for this program and he confirmed the carrier's serious cash commitment in the China-CNMI route.

"We have hired people already—CNMI residents. We have people who are now on board that are undergoing training and are scheduled to leave for Miami soon…to complete their training with an actual live aircraft," he said.

In fact, Nolte said, XTRAirways has as much as $3 million worth of equipment under 24-hour guard at the airport in preparation for the flight and maintenance of its aircraft.

"We have an aircraft we have set aside and have been modified for this China-Saipan service to suit the climate out here. So many things have been done. So we think it is an important and beneficial thing for the CNMI and I say that with all sincerity," Nolte added.

XTRAirways plans to have three flights a week from China, with 4am and 5am arrival times.

CPA board member Kimberly King-Hinds asked Nolte if XTRAirways is aware that there have been issues about congestion and long lines at the arrival area, given the number of flights that land between 12am and 8am and if they can consider another time slot to land on Saipan.

Nolte said they submitted their time slots on June 1, 2017 to Havens and it was approved.

"Changing our time slot is not viable at this point. Our times are already set in China. Unless you are a very large Chinese carrier, you're not going to be given daytime slots. That's the reality of it. So for us to go back and try to convince China [about] this kind of domino effect that has been going on here is going to string us out," he said.

Nolte added that if they try to change the time slots, processing may take months and possibly strain the program and the cash reserves.

Recently, Dynamic International Airways withdrew its Saipan flights and has filed for bankruptcy protection; it had its final Saipan flight last Aug. 19.

Aside from talking to CNMI lawmakers and CPA, Nolte considered that the slot Dynamic International Airways is leaving behind could be given to them as a solution, but they are not fully banking on the idea.

"We are following it very closely because even CBP NMI director Havens is saying if they go into liquidation then we can give you a spot, but the case is currently being heard in court in North Carolina. We have to wait for the court decision and unless Dynamic expressly say 'we are withdrawing service on Saipan' then we cannot do anything," he added.

CPA board member Barrie Toves assured XTRAirways that they are going to follow through on the information Nolte shared, discuss with management, and see what CPA can do.

"We are counting on CPA to be our best avenue at this point. It's good to get the word out so everybody is aware because it has a direct impact on the CNMI's employment and economy," Nolte said.

Panel expects Senate's version of budget out by September

The chairman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee expects a Senate version of the fiscal year 2018 budget to be issued by the end of the month.

Committee chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday that the committee is still working on the budget "as we speak and we hope that we have a product ready for introduction and action by the end of the month."

He said the committee is going over the numbers with fiscal analysts David Demapan and Perry Tenorio. The appropriations bill allocates the $145 million for the operation of the CNMI government in fiscal year 2018.

House Bill 20-105 HD2 passed the House of Representatives last July 31.

The most contentious part of the bill is the allocation of funds for an 80-percent salary increase for elected officials, which include members of the Legislature, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the mayors of each senatorial district.

Hofschneider chose to reserve comments on the increases.

The fiscal affairs committee will continue discussions on the fiscal year 2018 budget today in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill, starting 9:30am. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Man gets 2 years in prison for burglarizing uncle's house

A man got a two-year prison term yesterday for burglarizing his uncle's house in Chalan Kiya.

David Palacios Deleon Guerrero, 28, pleaded guilty to burglary as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Deleon Guerrero to five years in prison, all suspended except for two years. He was given credit for 148 days of time served.

After completing his sentence, he will be placed on five years of probation. He was ordered to pay a $100 fine, $100 in court costs, plus probation fees. He was required to perform 160 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to his uncle and his family.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, who represented Deleon Guerrero, pointed out that this was not the typical burglary where copper wire or appliances or other items were stolen.

Deleon Guerrero broke into his uncle's house and stole some canned goods.

According to court documents, police officers responded last March 27 to a reported burglary-in-progress at a house in Chalan Kiya. The officers surrounded the house and, when one officer opened the back door, Deleon Guerrero came out.

Police learned that the house owner had just installed a surveillance camera after noticing that items had been missing from their house. It was the house owner's son who got notification from the surveillance camera about the burglary-in-progress. The son called the police.

The house owner recognized the burglar as his nephew. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'Amending law would benefit NMHC'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Because of a dramatic decrease in funding, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. intends to lease the North Garapan Subdivision property as a whole to potential investors.

NMHC director Jesse Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* that they have long been waiting to lease the 45-unit property to potential investors, but have been waiting for the Legislature to amend Public Law 6-34, the law that governs how NMHC leases its properties.

According Palacios' formal testimony, Public Law 6-34 authorizes the housing agency to lease their properties for commercial developments, but this is subject to a couple of restrictions: That the potential investor is responsible for the relocation and replacement of the property before any developments take place, and the potential investor is required to pay an "upfront cash payment" to the NMHC.

The housing agency believes that these conditions hinder attempts to lease the property because the potential payments altogether would surpass the value of the property.

"The potential aggregate cost to the lessee far exceeds the appraised value of the subject property," said Palacios.

Another one of the conditions under the public law is that the proceeds acquired from potential investors are restricted for use on Saipan only.

Senate Bill 20-07, Senate Draft 1 (SD1), proposes to amend or repeal specific provisions in Public Law 6-34 that have been hindering the lease of the North Garapan Subdivision property. The bill also proposes that the proceeds will be used CNMI-wide.

In an interview, Palacios argues that the leasing of the land is beneficial to the Marianas.

There have been unsolicited offers from potential investors that want to establish a shopping mall in the Marianas, another hotel, or other commercial developments that could benefit the island.

Palacios told *Saipan Tribune* that money acquired from these potential developments would fund the many projects under the housing agency like home loans, foreclosed property renovations, and more because according to his testimony, the housing corporation has been receiving less and less funding over the years from HUD, their primary source of funding.

Palacios also added that the leasing of the property could serve as a gateway to alleviate the shortage of housing that the island is currently facing. The proceeds from the lease will be used to meet the housing agency's mission to deliver decent, safe, and sanitary housing to the entire Northern Marianas.

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Sobriety checkpoints on Saipan, Rota

The Highway Patrol Section of the Department of Public Safety will be setting up sobriety checkpoints on Saipan this week and next week.

On Saturday, Aug. 26, the first setup is from 6pm to 9pm, covering the area from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa.

The second setup from 10pm. to 12am will cover the area from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan.

On Wednesday next week, Aug. 30, the first setup from 7:30pm to 9:30pm will cover the area from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, San Antonio.

The second setup from 10:30pm to 12:30am will cover the highway from Chalan Pale Arnold in Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau.

On Sept. 2, the first setup from 6:30pm to 8:20pm will cover the area from Chalan Pale Arnold in Garapan to Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Laulau.

A second setup from 9:30pm to 11:30pm will cover the area from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in San Jose to Dandan.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (one hour and 15 minutes). This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts, or car seats.

Rota DPS will also be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints next week.

On Aug. 29, the first setup is from 7pm to 8:15pm along the San Francisco highway Guata area. The second setup is from 11pm to 12:15am along the San Francisco highway Sonton area.

On Aug. 31, the first setup from 7pm to 8:15pm will be along the San Francisco Highway Lotgan area. The second setup from 11pm to 12:15am will be along the San Francisco highway Tatgua area.

On Sept. 1, the first setup from 7pm to 8:15pm will be along San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3. The second setup from 11pm to 12:15am will be along San Francisco Highway by the Pinatang Park.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes.

Traffic and patrol officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Robbery on Navy Hill

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for a robbery incident that occurred on Navy Hill.

Early Tuesday morning, Aug. 22, 2017, at about 1:57am, police met with the victim, a 34-year-old Asian female, and learned that she was alone driving up Navy Hill from the Chalan Arnold Pale traffic light intersection when she first noticed the suspect car, described only as dark colored, following her.

The car followed her up Navy Hill to the parking lot of her apartment on Navy Hill. The victim parked her car in the apartment parking lot and witnessed the suspect's car park nearby. The victim had just gotten off her car when the suspect approached her. He was described as male, dark skinned, about 5'9" tall, heavily built, in his 30s, and wearing a dark-colored short-sleeved shirt. The suspect grabbed the victim's purse and they struggled. The victim fell to the ground and the suspect ran into the suspect's car and drove away. The victim was not seriously injured in the incident.

Items stolen include one Louis Vuitton bag with red trimming, a black iPhone 7, a gold-colored Samsung S6 Edge cell phone, driver's license, house key, credit cards, and about $700 cash.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at Outer Apra Harbor, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training in outer Apra Harbor tomorrow, Aug. 24, from 11am to 4pm.

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 25, from 7:30am to 1pm.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-026

TUTURAM ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Tuturam Road and Drainage Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 16, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **September 1, 2017, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 15, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-026"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time September 20, 2017.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, September 20, 2017,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 20, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 29, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, October 4, 2017.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on September 20, 2017.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-018

Supply and Delivery of Water and Wastewater Annual Materials

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-17-018, Supply & Delivery of Water & Wastewater Division Annual Materials",*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 06, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and

Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Prospective Bidders must comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 22, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Geoffrey Ada, CUC Water-Wastewater, Inventory Technician – via email address geoffrey.ada@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

HANMI regains confidence in fate of hotels with expiring leases

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Senate bill that extends the lease terms of public lands from 25 years to 40 years and would allow an extension of 15 years for a total of 55 years has revived the enthusiasm of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, as five of its members have leases that will expire in just a few years.

The measure, Senate Bill 20-35, passed the Senate last week on a 9-0 vote. It is now headed to the House of Representatives for action.

"HANMI is grateful to the Senate for taking up the critical issue of public land leases for some of the CNMI's major hotels, a matter intended to provide stability for the growing industry," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh.

The bill believes that a longer leasehold term would encourage lending by investment and financial institutions to finance major projects that will, in turn, create new job opportunities and stimulate other economic activities in the Commonwealth.

The hotels that have expiring leases are Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

Before the passage of the bill in the Senate, the fate of the five hotels was so uncertain—would the leases be renewed or not—prompting these hotels to suspend any improvement or renovation projects.

In a statement last June, Cavanagh pointed out that since there has been no assurance given to the hotels about their expiring leases, one of the hotels has stopped its renovation plans.

"One of the major hotels already has a plan to do a $25-million renovation in their property but because of the issues with Department of Public Lands, they halted because there was no assurance that they will still get the lease and earn their money back." Cavanagh said.

With the current impetus of the bill in the Legislature, HANMI believes the measure is more attuned to the needs of the growing economy of the CNMI. Hotels—and tourism— are integral as the economic driver of the CNMI.

The bill expressly states that the amendment to extend public land leases up to 40 years does not automatically extend the terms of existing public land leases. Only existing public land leases with an existing hotel or golf course on the leased property may be amended to extend the existing lease term.

Cavanagh said, "There were a number of changes made in draft 3 of the bill which we are still reviewing in terms of impact on the affected hotels. Once the information has been gathered, HANMI will be sharing that."

"In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to work with the House of Representatives on this important legislation," she added.

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MAZDA 3

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7D184	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D206	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D207	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$3,000	$17,995
7D208	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$3,000	$17,995
7D210	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM	$3,000	$17,995
7D211	GRAY 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D212	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD	$3,000	$17,995
7D156	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D188	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D216	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK SOLD WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D217	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D218	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495
7D219	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BA SOLD Y WHEELS	$3,500	$19,495

MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
7D180	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$7,000	$26,995
7D142	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, MT, GRAND TOURING HARD-TOP	$5,500	$32,495

CX-3 GRAND TOURING

7D136	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$5,000	$23,995
7D137	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$5,000	$23,995
7D197	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995
7D198	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995
7D224	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEAT SOLD OOF	$4,000	$24,995
7D225	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, LEATHER, AWD, SUNROOF	$4,000	$24,995

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		DISCOUNT	PRICE
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7H203	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H204	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$2,500	$16,495
7H224	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL SOLD	$2,500	$16,495
7H225	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALL SOLD	$2,500	$16,495

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7H208	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BAC SOLD WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
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LANCER ES

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7M030	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M031	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495

LANCER ES

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
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7M033	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495
7M034	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,500	$20,495

OUTLANDER

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7M022	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PAX, 2WD SE	$3,000	$25,995
7M036	SILVER 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PAX, 2WD SE	$3,000	$25,995

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Bisita Luta: Fiesta, fishing, and more on Oct. 5-8

Rota is gearing up to welcome visitors for four days of festivities during "Bisita Luta" on Oct. 5-8, 2017.

Bisita Luta, which literally mean "visit Rota," will feature a fiesta, a fishing derby, and more on the island renowned among the Marianas for its untouched natural beauty and warm island hospitality.

"Bisita Luta is a series of events that welcome and invite our neighboring island residents and tourists to visit Rota to experience our hospitality, view our unique and cultural sites, as well as taste the local delicacies," said Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig. "Rota is well known for its *aluf* (hand-waving) and friendliness, and we would love to showcase our cultural traditions and customs to our visitors."

The unspoiled beauty of Rota awaits visitors at the island's the Coconut Festival on Sept. 11-16, Bisita Luta on Oct. 5-8, and the 23rd Annual Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 18, 2017.

MVA

Most festivities will take place at the Chamorro Village Park in Songsong. On Oct. 5, Thursday, there will be a Night Market and Street Dance Competition at 6pm, and Rota Wildlife Showcase beginning at 7pm. Fisherman participating in the next day's Bud Light Fishing Derby will have an orientation at West Harbor Park at 5pm.

The Bud Light Fishing Derby will kick off the following day, Oct. 6. The Night Market will feature the Binadu Festival. The *binadu* (Philippine deer) roams wild on Rota and is a local delicacy.

A concert is also set for that evening at the Rota Chamorro Village Park.

In honor of Songsong's patron saint, the San Francisco de Borja Fiesta Mass will be held on Oct. 7, Saturday, at the San Francisco de Borja Parish at 3:30pm, followed by dinner and entertainment. The Bud Light Fishing Derby will continue that day, with awards presented at the fiesta grounds.

Oct. 8, Sunday, will be celebrated as Family Day beginning at 1pm. A raffle drawing will also be held later that evening.

"The San Francisco de Borja Fiesta has always been a strong attraction for Rota and one of its peak period for visits, and the Bisita Luta event just adds more reasons to visit this beautiful island," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA is pleased to again be partnering with Mayor Atalig in making this event possible."

The weekend event is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office with support from Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, MVA, and all the Rota governmental departments in partnership with the San Francisco de Borja Fiesta chairman and parish council.

For more information, contact special assistant for Programs and Grants Aubry Hocog of the Rota Mayor's Office at 532-9451 or aubryhocog@gmail.com or Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 532-0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Sunshine Saures promoted to reservations manager

Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., which operates the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Kanoa Resort, has promoted Sunshine Saures as reservations manager of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, effective Aug. 6, 2017.

SEAFOOD GALORE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aqua Resort Club Saipan guests enjoy the hotel resort's Cajun Sea-Fest. Tuesdays and Thursdays are special days at Aqua Resort Club Saipan. That's when the hotel resort holds its Cajun Sea-Fest—a feast of the best and freshest seafood cooked Cajun style. For inquiries and reservations, call (670) 322-1234 ext. 731/732.

Saures began her hospitality career at the former Hafadai Beach Hotel in 2012 before joining Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in 2015 as a reservations agent. She was promoted to supervisor in 2016 and to assistant manager, Rooms Reservations in March 2017.

As assistant manager, she worked tirelessly to improve the stability of the room inventory, and successfully manage the transition from one property management system to another. Since becoming an assistant manager, she has contributed tremendous time and energy to improve the reservations department.

In her role as reservations manager, Saures is responsible for confirming balance in the room inventory, coordinating with tour agents to ensure guests are properly accommodated, and that accurate room rates and packages are being applied.

"We are excited about Ms. Saures' promotion as she is an integral part of our company. We are confident that she is the right person to further elevate the standards of the Reservations Department for our 416-room resort," said Wendi Herring, general manager.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is part of Asia Pacific Hotel Inc., under the TanHoldings Group. ***(PR)***

CUC power outages this week

There will be a series of power outages this week that will affect Capital Hill, Garapan, and Beach Road.

The first power outage tomorrow, Aug. 24, will be from 9am to 1pm, affecting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Capital Hill.

Areas that will be affected include Capitol Hill Rd., Tapochao Road, partial of Chalan Galaidi, Capitol Hill Homestead, and Isa Drive (Cator PI., Atbut Dr.,Panao PI., Aluw PI., Kalaskas Dr., Nanka Ln., Otto PI., Cat Calw PI., Apple PI., Egigi Dr., Nosa Ln., Dulili Ln., Gaga Karisu Dr., Gagatasi Ln., Ifet Dr., and Yogga Ln.

This will allow CUC line crew to replace the deteriorated power pole hardware on Capital Hill Road and on Isa Drive. This is part of an ongoing project to strengthen and harden the integrity of the power distribution system throughout the islands.

Water services will be interrupted during the duration of the power interruption. Water wells affected are CH-1,CH-2, CH-3, and TP-1. All services will be restored after the power is re-energized.

There will then be a power outage in Garapan on Aug. 25, Friday, from 9am to 1pm, to allow CUC line crew to replace three 100KVA transformers with three 37.5 KVA pole mounted transformers.

Areas affected by Friday's power interruption are Kadena di Amor and Chichirica Avenue in Garapan.

This is part of the ongoing program to improve the efficiency of power distribution throughout Saipan.

The day after, Aug. 26, there will be a power interruption affecting Beach Road from 5:30am to 10:30am, from Triple J Motors south to the traffic light by Atkins Kroll Toyota.

Wastewater lifts station to be affected is S-12 and traffic light affected is San Jose (near Atkins Kroll Toyota).

This will allow the CUC line crew to safely replace four wooden power poles with concrete poles along Beach Road. This is part of an ongoing hazard mitigation project that involves the replacement of 787 wooden poled with concrete poles.

A total of 303 wooden poles have already been replaced with concrete ones and there are still 484 poles that need to be replaced.

Due to the scale of work that will be performed in the days mentioned, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information about these power outages, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(Saipan Tribune)***

'Delegation may regulate Tinian gambling'

The CNMI Supreme Court issued its opinion yesterday in *Blanco-Maratita v. Borja*, 2017 MP 6, affirming the trial court's determination that three local laws enacted by the Tinian Legislative Delegation are constitutional.

The high court also clarified the length of the terms of the commissioners on the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

In 1989, voters on Tinian, also called the second senatorial district, passed a local initiative to legalize gambling and establish the commission on Tinian through an enabling act, later revised as the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989.

In 2004 and 2013, the Tinian Legislative Delegation enacted two local laws, Tinian Local Law 14-1 and TLL 18-5, amending the revised act to, among other things, reduce the casino license application fee, lower the minimum age of casino employees from 21 to 18, and rearrange gambling tax structures.

In 2014, the Tinian Legislative Delegation enacted Tinian Local Ordinance 18-3 to make appropriations for the commission's operating budget.

Former commission officers Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita and Lisa-Marie B. Aguon sued Tinian municipal treasurer Charlene M. Lizama, later replaced by Maria B. Borja; Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas; and the Tinian municipality, claiming that the three local laws were unconstitutional.

Blanco-Maratita and Aguon also argued that a commissioner's term runs for six years from the date of his or her individual confirmation, not, as the Tinian government posits, by dates predetermined by the 1990 initial appointments to the commission.

The trial court ruled in favor of the Tinian government both as to the constitutionality of the local laws and the commissioners' terms.

On appeal, Blanco-Maratita and Aguon argued the laws should be found unconstitutional because: 1) Article 21 of the NMI Constitution prohibits a legislative delegation from regulating gambling or amending an existing gambling law enacted by local initiative; 2) the laws unduly and unreasonably interfere with the second senatorial district's constitutional right to effectively establish gambling.

Additionally, Blanco-Maratita and Aguon asserted that TLO 18-3 violates the principle of separation of powers because, by capping the number of positions in the commission and the salary for each position, it impermissibly interferes with the Executive Branch.

The CNMI Supreme Court held that pursuant to Article 21, Section 6 of the NMI Constitution and Local Law Act of 1983, a legislative delegation is empowered to enact local law regulating gambling, including amending a gambling law enacted by local initiative.

The high court stated this reading does not conflict with the Constitution because Article 21 only applies to who may lift the prohibition on gambling; it does not prohibit the legislative delegation from regulating gambling once the prohibition on gambling is lifted.

The high court also determined the three local laws in question do not unduly and unreasonably interfere with the second senatorial district's constitutional right to effectively establish gambling, because TLL 14-1 and TLL 18-5 reasonably relate to the governmental interest of promoting the competitiveness of the gambling industry, and the denial of a salary increase of a single employee under TLO 18-3 is not undue or unreasonable interference in these circumstances.

The high court further held the separation of powers principle was not implicated because the Tinian Legislative Delegation and the commission are not coequal branches of government.

Further, as the commission is independent from the mayor, any interference with the commission does not impute interference with the mayor's function.

On the commissioners' terms issue, the high court held that the revised act as a whole provides for a staggering system with terms not strictly bound by dates predetermined by the 1990 initial appointments to the commission, but limited in variation.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's ruling as to the constitutionality of the local laws in question, vacated the trial court's ruling as to the commissioners' terms, and remanded for further proceedings.

The high court's full opinion is available at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme17.html.

For further information, contact the Supreme Court at 236-9715. ***(PR)***

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Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation program builds local capacity for operation, treatment

In addition to the soft opening of the Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti, or HOPE, rehabilitation center last week, special assistant for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Yvette Sablan said the program is in the process of building local professional capacity in rehabilitation and human services for the CNMI.

Sablan noted the program's hiring of substance abuse counselors that are certified in providing psychotherapy services to various groups with addiction or mental illnesses, addiction assessment, recovery-based practices and integrated dual disorder treatment, including forensic focused intervention.

"The Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation program has been focused on building its professional capacity with the hiring of new certified substance abuse counselors and the training of our local workforce to provide the same professional services. In collaboration with the Community Guidance Center, [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.], and the CNMI Drug Court, this will help the afflicted members of our community and address substance abuse, especially our ongoing efforts in the war on ice," Sablan said.

Right now, there are eight behavioral health technicians that are certified in crisis counseling and substance abuse recovery for a 24-hour rotation.

"We have two certified substance abuse counselors on board, and we are expecting two more joining the team in a few months. I'd like to reiterate that the HOPE facility is a group home, in a safe and secure environment for the treatment of those looking to heal and I applaud Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres for his foresight at a time where the community needs a comprehensive substance abuse program," she said.

Torres underscored the importance of addressing the increasing rates of substance abuse.

"We have family members in our community suffering in silence. In order to build a safer and healthier community, those suffering from addiction need this critical access to services and treatment. Developing our local talent to help our people is our commitment and investment in the future of our islands. I thank all our community's stakeholders for their continued collaboration, and we look forward to the next steps in providing more rehabilitation services for our family and friends who need it the most." ***(PR)***

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM
Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.
Ask if your baby passed the test. If you have concerns or your baby needs follow up call 236-8709.
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Why Afghanistan matters

There are places in the world so potentially volatile that the U.S. cannot leave them to the ebb and flow of geopolitics. The Korean Peninsula and the Middle East come immediately to mind. Afghanistan also belongs on that list—something President Donald Trump has finally come to realize, seven months after taking office.

The *Los Angeles Times* reports that Trump is poised to authorize sending roughly 4,000 more U.S. troops to the South Asian country, the site of the longest war in America's history. Like their countrymen already in Afghanistan, these Americans won't be a combat force. They'll carry out counterterrorism missions and advise Afghan officers fighting on the front lines against a resurgent Taliban.

» The US cannot let this battered land fall to terrorists

Until Monday, Trump had said little about the Afghan conflict, and had not acted on pleas from top military advisers to beef up the U.S. military contingent in Afghanistan. Instead, he had focused on the Islamic State's presence in northern Iraq and Syria, while keeping Afghanistan as a policy to be determined.

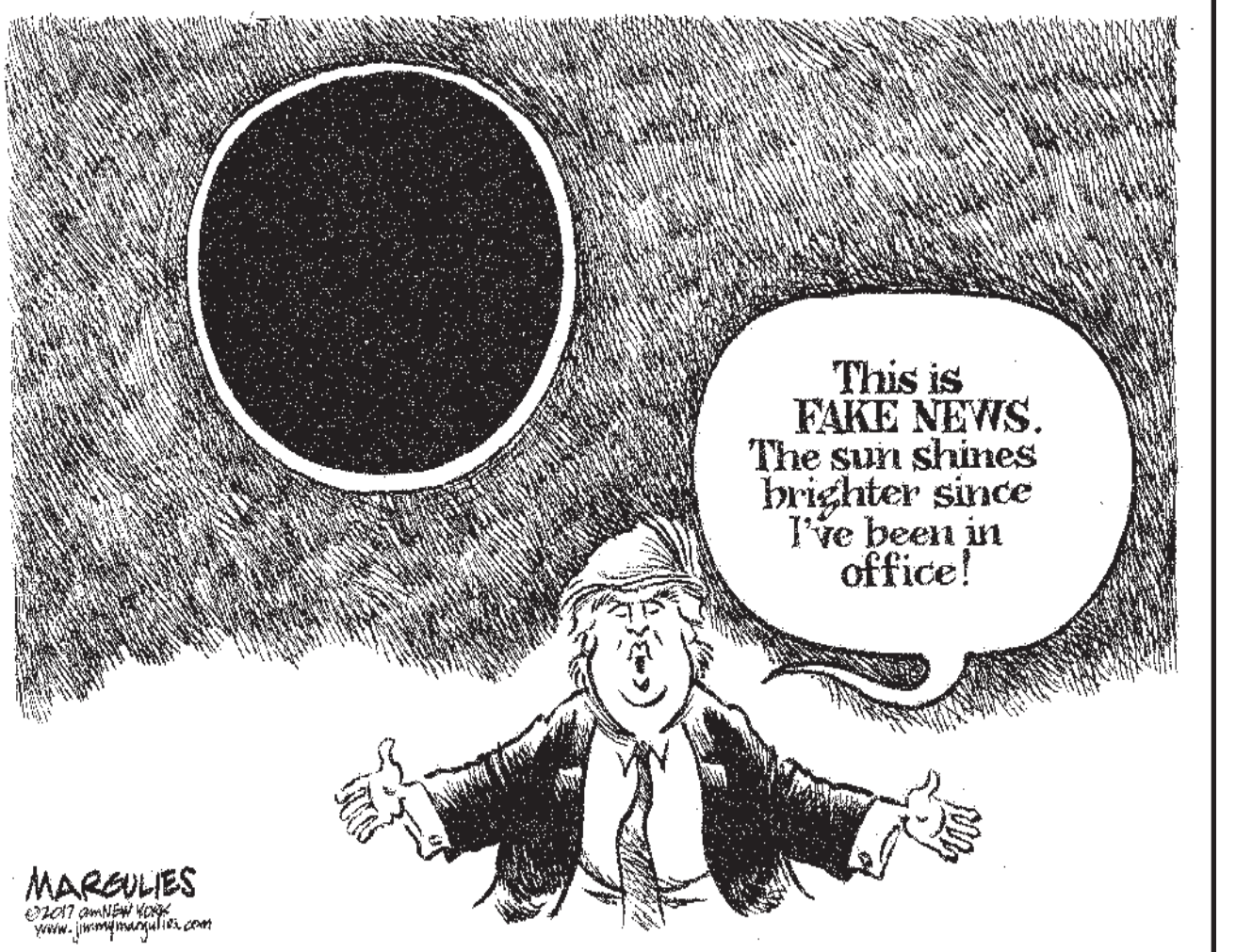
Trump was right to continue helping the Iraqi government root out Islamic State from that country's second largest city, Mosul, and right to arm Syrian Kurdish fighters in their bid to defeat Islamic State in Raqqa, the militant group's Syrian stronghold. The Islamic State's footprint in Iraq and Syria has shrunk considerably, and continues to shrink.

We also think he's right to broaden the U.S. role in Afghanistan. That country matters—this war matters—because America can pay a high price when it glances away from lands vulnerable to terrorist takeover. Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, paid that price in Syria and Iraq. Obama's troop withdrawal from Iraq in 2011 left that country in a state of chaos, and Islamic State rose from the ashes of al-Qaida in Iraq. Obama's policy in Syria was halfhearted and troubled—recall the $500 million train-and-equip program for Syrian rebel fighters that yielded only a handful of troops. Many factors contributed to the Islamic State burgeoning into the world's most feared terrorist group, but Obama's reluctance to take stronger stands in Iraq and Syria played a part.

Is there a danger of Afghanistan again becoming a terrorist haven, as it once was for al-Qaida before 9/11? Without a doubt. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's military can't tamp down the carnage, and only 8,400 U.S. and 5,000 NATO troops are there now to train and support them. Ambushes and suicide bomb attacks kill Afghan security forces and civilians with harrowing regularity. According to the United Nations, 11,418 civilians were killed in the country last year—the most since the U.N. started tallying casualties in 2009. Taliban insurgents now hold sway over vast stretches of territory—the most since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

Islamic State militants also have established a foothold in the eastern province of Nangarhar. Last week a booby trap laid by the terror group killed an American soldier from Utah and injured 11 fellow troops.

See WHY on Next Page



My trailer park childhood, exploited for fun

By BROOKE BINKOWSKI
Los Angeles Times

Brooke Binkowski is a reporter and the managing editor for the fact-checking website Snopes.com. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

A new restaurant has opened in San Diego's tony Gaslamp Quarter, one with an unsavory theme: Trailer Park After Dark. The underground restaurant and self-described "five star dive bar" features fashionably mismatched furniture, shopping carts for seating, wood wall paneling, actual trailers scattered around the room and dishes with names such as "Meat Tubes" (hot dogs) and "Twerkin' Melon" (a graham cracker and watermelon confection).

If this were merely an example of 1970s nostalgia, as one might think from the wood paneling, I'd let it go. But it has the stench of classism—so I can't.

As a kid, we were poor enough that I lived in a trailer park with my grandparents for a while. It wasn't a hardship; I loved its compactness and our neighbors. We never had a lot of money and went through some extraordinarily lean years, but we got through them as best we could. I thought my family did a good job of it, too. However, it was eventually made clear to me, through years of subtle looks and pointed comments, that trailer parks are "trashy." The things I loved were tacky. The way I dressed, the way I presented myself—just hopeless.

I only felt more out of place after I dropped out of high school and got into media. Since journalism jobs rarely pay well, they often attract people who already have money. (They can afford to have low salaries.) I felt like a stranger in a strange land. I made a study of those who were rich, the ones who acted, looked and even smelled expensive. I knew they could smell poverty on me. I spent a long time studying people of higher classes in order to try to emulate them. How did they speak? What did they say? How did they hold their forks? Dress? Do their hair?

I finally made it into the middle class in my 30s, after I made enough money to put myself through college and earn a bachelor's degree. I am extremely lucky and I know it.

And now people with too much money will be imitating my childhood milieu, eating overpriced foods that rich white people think "trailer trash" like. As if we'd have eaten canned green beans and tater tots covered with melted government cheese if we'd had a choice. Rich people can walk down Fifth Avenue avoiding eye contact with people trying to panhandle so they can buy a meal or perhaps some booze because being homeless sucks—then go into this restaurant and buy a $10 grilled cheese sandwich.

America has a long history of treating its impoverished as entertainment. During the Gilded Age of the 1800s, rich New Yorkers would stand in line for hours to see the way people lived in the slums, sometimes posing as charity workers (in what they called "slumming parties," eventually truncated to just "slumming") so that they could push their way into people's homes and get a good look around. A version of this practice appeared in the 1980s and 1990s, when Americans started traveling to places such as India and Brazil to take slum tours. Reality TV shows about poor, rural Americans made it possible for the rich to taste the pleasures of poverty without leaving the comfort of their couches.

Oliver Twist-style stories about the plucky poor—a media favorite—are another example of poverty-as-entertainment. The restaurant employee who walked to get to work because he couldn't afford a car. The homeless man who was a radio star before addiction claimed his career.

These "inspirational" stories, like carnivals and slum tours, have a secondary purpose: reinforcing stereotypes. The helpless poor person, who is almost always not white, is saved from an untenable situation not by pluck alone, but with the assistance of a generous, rich and usually white person who just happened on the situation, with not a single thought spared for the underlying structural forces that caused it—a dearth of available health care or addiction treatment; ever-rising housing prices; redlining; stigma attached to mental health issues.

Perhaps Trailer Park After Dark has more of a conscience than I can perceive. Perhaps the owners are doing good works out of the spotlight. I don't know, because multiple requests for comment, via phone and email, were not answered.

But even if they're doing homeless outreach, serving people for free who can't afford to eat, or building homeless shelters on their days off, they are still using my life, and the life of my family and childhood friends, as fodder for the rich-kid nightclub set.

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The new weapons we need

By JOHN YOO
Los Angeles Times

John Yoo is a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley and a former official in the George W. Bush Justice Department and the co-author of Striking Power: How Cyber, Robots, and Space Weapons Change the Rules of War, to *be published in September. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

With threats, bribes, diplomacy and sanctions, American presidents of both parties have sought for 25 years to try to halt, or at least slow, North Korea's quest for a nuclear arsenal—to no avail.

Though the brinksmanship of the last few weeks has subsided, President Donald Trump still faces the prospect of a madman—Kim Jong Un—in control of a nuclear arsenal. What the U.S. and its allies must now do is find options between conventional war, or even nuclear holocaust, on the one hand, and appeasement on the other. The answer could be robotic, cyber and space weapons—if we have the will to deploy them.

Three types of technology hold promise for facing down North Korea and similar threats.

First, drones and robots. They already have been used for pinpoint strikes on terrorist leaders and insurgent forces in the Mideast. More advanced drones could potentially locate and destroy Pyongyang's nuclear arsenals, research centers and missile sites. Robotic naval vessels could blockade North Korea, and manned and unmanned forces could form a layered anti-missile shield.

The United States should also unleash cyber capabilities it has steadily built over the last decade. Computer viruses alone can't prevent North Korea from launching nuclear missiles, but they could degrade the Kim regime's ability to conduct research and development, test and control weapons and gather intelligence. Cyberwarfare could also complement economic sanctions by freezing North Korean offshore bank accounts, paralyzing communications and disrupting Chinese companies that continue to trade with Pyongyang.

Third, with launch costs falling (thank you SpaceX), and the capabilities of precision-guided munitions improving, the United States could rush the development of a space-based anti-missile system. Though still on the drawing board, space weapons will someday be able to target intercontinental ballistic missiles during their initial boost phase, when the large plume of their engines makes them easiest to detect and their slow upward ascent makes them most vulnerable.

Using advanced technology should appeal to a commander in chief who rails against the "waste" of American blood and treasure expended abroad and at the same time deplores "the very sad depletion of our military." "Fire and fury" and "America first" mesh poorly, unless technology is employed to resolve the paradox.

The potential is clear. In the Kosovo air war, the U.S. Air Force dropped graphite bombs to disable the Serbian electrical grid; in the Iraq invasion, allied air power crippled Saddam Hussein's military and civilian transportation network. New technologies can create those pressures—and more—with far greater effect, less permanent damage and less risk to troops. They can be deployed quickly and precisely in a crisis, and they provide strategic deterrence as well.

The main obstacle to deploying such weapons will be hearts and minds in the West. There are already calls to ban new weapons because they are destabilizing. United Nations officials, for example, attacked President Obama's drone campaign because it made war too easy to wage. Elon Musk, founder of SpaceX, recently called artificial intelligence "the greatest risk we face as a civilization" and predicted that it could trigger wars. These critics fear a new technology arms race that will encourage the promiscuous use of these weapons.

Every advance in warfare has met with such arguments. The Catholic Church and European aristocrats tried to ban the crossbow. During World War I, it was argued that long-range artillery, aerial bombing and submarine attacks violated the laws of war by removing the face-to-face element of combat. This summer, 122 nations joined a treaty banning nuclear weapons, and the International Court of Justice has come close to declaring them a violation of international law.

And yet there is every reason not to limit our ability to bring dangerous nations to heel, not least because new technologies give the U.S. and its allies an opportunity to preempt looming threats or respond quickly with proportional force in a crisis.

The U.N. charter and modern warfare conventions frown on preemption; nations can use force only for self-defense or when authorized by the Security Council. But violations have been tolerated: President Reagan bombed Libya in retaliation for a terror attack on U.S. soldiers, Israel destroyed Iraqi and Syrian nuclear reactors, and President Clinton launched cruise missiles against Iraq for barring inspections of nuclear sites. Neither the Bush nor Obama administrations consulted the U.N. before launching the Stuxnet virus to disrupt Iran's uranium processing facilities.

Developing and deploying more sophisticated robotic, cyber and space weaponry may amplify an arms race, but the key word is "amplify." Our adversaries are already off and running—witness the Russian, Chinese and North Korean hacking of U.S. government and commercial systems. Our rivals are unlikely to obey a treaty limiting such weapons, except as a ruse. (They see cyberweapons, for example, as a counterbalance to our superiority in conventional and strategic weapons.) Treaty inspectors are unlikely to detect secret cyber or robotics programs, as we have learned from trying to monitor nuclear R&D programs.

High-tech weaponry challenges long-cherished arms control norms, but it is already too late to prevent our rivals from developing and using these technologies. Should sanctions, threats and diplomacy fail, the U.S. may need to strike first, but with the caution and precision afforded by new technology.

For Trump, repeating 'Make American Great Again' is Twitter winner

By MARK WHITEHOUSE
Bloomberg View

Mark Whitehouse writes editorials on global economics and finance for Bloomberg View. He covered economics for the Wall Street Journal *and served as deputy bureau chief in London. Readers may email him at mwhitehouse1@bloomberg.net.*

If President Donald Trump really wants to light up the Twittersphere, what should he write about? White supremacists? The wall? Obama? Fighting terrorism?

Nope. Judging from experience, his best bet is just repeating his mantra: "Make America Great Again."

Welcome to another special edition of the Trump Twitter Filter, where we analyze the behavior of @realDonaldTrump so you don't have to. This time around, we'll focus on the president's most popular tweets—that is, those that garner the most favorites and retweets, which tend to indicate approval. What are the biggest winners? And what do they have in common?

Trump's No. 1 post by far, with about a million retweets and favorites, is also among his most offensive: a short video in which the president appears to brutally beat a wrestler with a CNN logo for a head—originally created by a Reddit user who had also posted anti-Semitic and racist imagery. No. 2, by contrast, is exceptionally reasonable: He calls the protests surrounding his January inauguration "a hallmark of our democracy," saying that "even if I don't always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views."

Beyond such isolated examples, though, one theme shows up more frequently in the top tweets than any other: "Make America Great Again." He has repeated the phrase 33 times this year. Sometimes it's all by itself, sometimes with a message such as "Enjoy the #SuperBowl."

A regression analysis suggests that the phrase adds (very roughly) 51,000 to a post's retweet-and-favorite count, which is a big deal given that the average Trump tweet attracts a total of 107,000. That tops even such big engagement generators as "Obama" and "fake" (as in "fake news").

What might explain the power of those words? One possibility is that programmers have trained fake automated Twitter accounts, known as bots, to respond to that particular combination. Bots are believed to comprise a significant portion of Twitter traffic, though nobody really knows how much.

That said, the hashtag #MAGA—which Trump frequently uses, and which one might expect bots interested in the phrase to pick up—has no discernible effect on engagement.

A second explanation is that the phrase reaches the broadest common denominator of Trump supporters. Even those who don't like some of his views and policies can get on board with the simple goal of greatness. If this is what's happening, the mantra might also serve as a sort of barometer of how many people—at least in the Twitterverse—are sticking with Trump despite his often embarrassing and at times reprehensible behavior.

The phrase's power doesn't appear to have waned over the past several months, even as Trump's approval rating has fallen to levels unprecedented for a U.S. president at this point in his first term.

Apparently, despite all Trump has done to aggravate America's internal divisions and undermine its stature abroad, many denizens of Twitter still like to see him say how great it will be.

WHY

From Page 10

While Trump inherited the chaos that is Afghanistan, it's his watch now. It's a relief to see him finally forging an Afghan strategy, because so much is at stake.

Allowing the Taliban, Islamic State and other groups to succeed there creates two perilous scenarios: It turns the country into a rogue state, and thus an ideal training ground for terrorists with designs on attacking targets in the U.S., Europe and beyond. And it supplies militant leaders fodder for their online propaganda to inspire new attacks by lone wolves or sleeper cells.

Left on its own, the fractured, inept Afghan government likely won't be able to turn the tide against the Taliban. The Afghan army needs a stronger boost from U.S. and NATO troops, who can help Kabul's military hurt the insurgency enough that Taliban leaders see the value in beginning peace talks. Those talks are the only way Kabul and Washington can break free from the quagmire the Afghan conflict has become.

Every president who faces deployment decisions knows the danger of sending more young men and women into war zones. But letting rogue groups dig deeper into Afghanistan is the greater long-range danger to America. Trump is correct to increase the U.S. role there.

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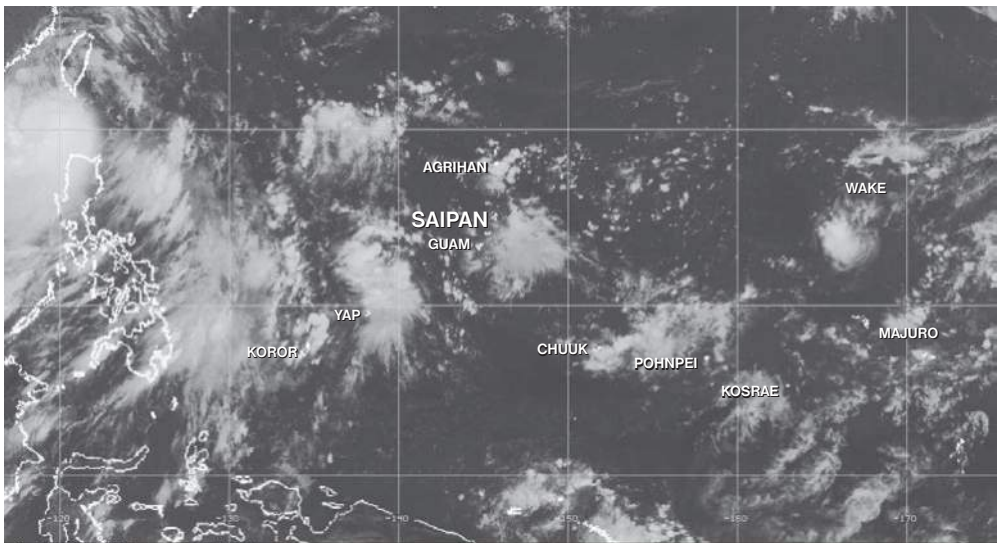
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast to east winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲90° ▼79°	▲89° ▼78°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:45 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper level low and trough and surface trough were located just to the west of the Marianas. These features are supposed to move away from the area today. As a result, a drier pattern should establish itself over the next few days as surface ridging moves in. Will keep the mention of thunder during the day today, then just isolated showers for the balance of the week. One potential caveat, some guidance is suggesting another round of thunder tonight into Wednesday morning. However, with a ridge building in and drier air, my confidence in this occurring is not high, if the remainder of the guidance is correct. So, for now, will not include and will evaluate later guidance. Marine conditions still look fairly tranquil this week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	59° / 48°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	90° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 67°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	93° / 81°
Paris	Sunny	82° / 57°
Busan	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 66°
Salem	Thunderstorms	92° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 57°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	85° / 67°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:41 AM	LOW TIDE	0.76
8:01 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.01
2:59 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.16
9:22 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.97

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:08 AM	7:47 PM	-
Thursday	8:02 AM	8:30 PM	-
Friday	8:55 AM	9:12 PM	-
Saturday	9:45 AM	9:53 PM	-
Sunday	10:35 AM	10:34 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO424:50pm	12:05am+1		2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

HPO processes 66 one-start permits so far

With increased economic developments and earthmoving projects, the Historic Preservation Office in the Commonwealth has so far processed 66 one-start permits for fiscal year 2017.

Historic preservation officer Mertie Kani noted that HPO review and compliance has reviewed and processed these permit applications from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for the three islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during this reporting period.

"In addition to the one-start permit processing, we've had ongoing subsurface testing activities. Our staff recently conducted a project at a highly sensitive historic and archaeological environment in Chalan Kanoa. The project is for the Public School System's Head Start program's proposed new generator house and canopy, with parking extension and fencing upgrade at the Chalan Kanoa Head Start site," Kani said.

She adds that the project is necessary to ensure that this proposed undertaking will not adversely affect any significant historic and/or archaeological subsurface deposits, features or resources.

Since its implementation over a decade ago, BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said the one-start permitting process has dramatically improved efficiency.

"BECQ reviews and manages the Inter-Agency One-Start Earthmoving and Erosion Control Permit application for both commercial and non-commercial activities and, by law, must be completed within 21 calendar days. These regulations have helped protect marine and freshwater quality and protection of our environment. Through this process, we've been able to streamline and prioritize earthmoving activities and improve public and environmental health," Rabauliman said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the one-start permitting process is crucial to compliance and oversight of proposed projects.

"The CNMI is surrounded by water and marine life. Earthmoving activities affect the balance of our freshwater quality and erosion. One-start permitting educates our business community and promotes public awareness of environmental protection. As our economy continues to grow, improving our efficiency and quality of services remains important. At the end of the day, we must ensure that these activities are done in a way that minimizes environmental impacts and that we stay cognizant of preserving these areas for our future generations," Torres said. ***(PR)***

Bank of Guam report praised for excellence

Leon Guerrero

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has earned a Bronze Award at the Mercomm Annual Report Competition for the bank's 2016 Annual Report, "BankGuam Holding: Weaving The Thread That Binds Our Community."

Board chair, president and chief executive officer Lou A. Leon Guerrero congratulated the bank's Communications Department saying, "This is the first time the bank has entered and won a prestigious international award for print medium. Our Communications Department team has shown that local talent can successfully produce stunning, prize-winning pieces that compete with the best globally. We are very proud of this award and happily share it with our community."

Mercomm, Inc. is the world's only independent awards organization dedicated to defining the standards of excellence in the communications fields and to recognizing the individuals whose work has made an outstanding contribution to their organization, corporation or client.

The International ARC Awards, organized by Mercomm, Inc., are globally recognized and provide a platform for the highest standards in the annual report industry. It is the world's largest international competition honoring excellence in annual reports. Judged by their peers, the ARC Awards are considered the premier annual report competition.

The winning Bank of Guam report can be viewed on the bank's website, www.bankofguam.com. ***(PR)***

UOG appoints McVey and Leon Guerrero to leadership posts

The University of Guam promoted two UOG administrators to new leadership positions to oversee student and institutional success—Dr. Troy McVey and Deborah Leon Guerrero.

McVey was appointed interim assistant vice president for Academic Excellence/director of Graduate Studies. Having served 12 years at the University of Guam as faculty and associate dean of CLASS, his most recent position was provost fellow to the senior vice president of Academic and Student Affairs.

McVey earned a bachelor's degree of Fine Arts in Theatre Technology from Drake University in 1998 and a master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design from Tulane University in 2004. This year he completed his Doctor of Education in Global Education from the University of Southern California.

McVey

Leon Guerrero

In his new capacity, McVey will work closely with the Office of Enrollment Management and Student Success and the deans on student success initiatives such as academic advisement, transfer students, and high-impact practices.

"This new position continues the traditions of graduate studies," said McVey. "It also allows for new inspections of difficult issues for university matters that span multiple academic and student service units. My hope is to create an atmosphere of constructive thought, progressive action, and student-centered conversation."

The University appointed Deborah Leon Guerrero assistant vice president for Institutional Effectiveness. Throughout her 15 years at UOG, Leon Guerrero has been the registrar and most recently the director for Academic Assessment and Institutional Research, which she held for the last eight years.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Colorado State University in 1985 and a master's in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1990.

Leon Guerrero will continue her work in academic assessment and institutional research while focusing on monitoring and reporting institutional accreditation compliance and supporting UOG's overarching Good to Great initiatives.

"My office not only continues the work on supporting its original function in the areas of assessment and institutional research but—now taking it to an elevated and broader level—to assure accreditation compliance, to address WSCUC recommendations, and to support G2G implementation," said Leon Guerrero. ***(UOG)***

Pacific auditors hold 20th Congress in Tuvalu

Delegates of the 20th Congress in Funafuti, Tuvalu. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The association of Pacific auditors held its 20th Congress in Funafuti, Tuvalu from Aug. 8 to Aug. 11.

Over 40 participants from 23 members and development partners attended the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions Congress, which had the theme "Promoting the Values and Benefits of SAIs through Effective Communication."

Tuvalu deputy prime minister of Maatia Toafa, as acting prime minister, was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony, mentioning the importance of the Congress' theme, particularly for Tuvalu and its recent update of their audit act.

"With these changes and increased powers comes additional accountability. This accountability must be effectively communicated to stakeholders in order to be demonstrated," said Toafa.

Tuvalu Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga hosted a state dinner for the PASAI Congress delegates on the night of the opening of Congress.

Welcoming the SAI heads from around the Pacific, he applauded their role and those of public officers in general, in leading their nations in trust and respect. Speaking about the Tuvalu government, "This government is fully committed to the principles of transparency, good governance and accountability," he said.

Congress delegates participated in productive dialogue during the communications workshop, coming up with creative ideas and viable solutions for the challenges which many of them face in promoting the values and benefits of SAIs and engaging their stakeholders. Important decisions were achieved during the PASAI AGM and business sessions that have positioned PASAI purposefully to achieve their strategic plan and objectives for the region.

The PASAI governing board also held its 17th meeting on Aug. 7 as part of the Congress proceedings.

SAI heads recognized the importance of having more dialogue with their colleagues, stakeholders and development partners locally to build strong relationships and trust for maximum engagement for the work that their SAI is doing. This would in turn strengthen accountability and transparency across the region.

"The Congress has been a success with key decisions being made by the members relating to future funding of PASAI to ensure effective delivery of the PASAI strategy," said Ihlen K. Joseph, public auditor of Pohnpei State-FSM and outgoing chairman of PASAI.

Tuvalu's auditor-general, Eli Lopati, hosted the Congress with his staff and the wider community with joy, warmth and unique Tuvalu flavor. Sharing their life and culture through food, dance, music, singing and a special excursion to Tepuka island, Congress participants were treated to an exceptional insight to Tuvalu.

PASAI acknowledges the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their valued support with this Congress. ***(PR)***

Business

Record $417M award in lawsuit linking baby powder to cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles jury on Monday ordered Johnson & Johnson to pay a record $417 million to a hospitalized woman who claimed in a lawsuit that the talc in the company's iconic baby powder causes ovarian cancer when applied regularly for feminine hygiene.

The verdict in the lawsuit brought by the California woman, Eva Echeverria, marks the largest sum awarded in a series of talcum powder lawsuit verdicts against Johnson & Johnson in courts around the U.S.

Echeverria alleged Johnson & Johnson failed to adequately warn consumers about talcum powder's potential cancer risks. She used the company's baby powder on a daily basis beginning in the 1950s until 2016 and was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2007, according to court papers.

Echeverria developed ovarian cancer as a "proximate result of the unreasonably dangerous and defective nature of talcum powder," she said in her lawsuit.

AP
This undated photo provided by Robinson Calcagnie, Inc., shows Eva Echevarria.

Echeverria's attorney, Mark Robinson, said his client is undergoing cancer treatment while hospitalized and told him she hoped the verdict would lead Johnson & Johnson to put additional warnings on its products.

"Mrs. Echeverria is dying from this ovarian cancer and she said to me all she wanted to do was to help the other women throughout the whole country who have ovarian cancer for using Johnson & Johnson for 20 and 30 years," Robinson said.

"She really didn't want sympathy," he added. "She just wanted to get a message out to help these other women."

The jury's award included $68 million in compensatory damages and $340 million in punitive damages, Robinson said. The evidence in the case included internal documents from several decades that "showed the jury that Johnson & Johnson knew about the risks of talc and ovarian cancer," Robinson said.

"Johnson & Johnson had many warning bells over a 30 year period but failed to warn the women who were buying its product," he said.

Johnson & Johnson spokeswoman Carol Goodrich said in a statement that the company will appeal the jury's decision. She says while the company sympathizes with women suffering from ovarian cancer that scientific evidence supports the safety of Johnson's baby powder.

The verdict came after a St. Louis, Missouri jury in May awarded $110.5 million to a Virginia woman who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2012.

She had blamed her illness on her use of the company's talcum powder-containing products for more than 40 years.

Besides that case, three other trials in St. Louis had similar outcomes last year—with juries awarding damages of $72 million, $70.1 million and $55 million, for a combined total of $307.6 million.

Another St. Louis jury in March rejected the claims of a Tennessee woman with ovarian and uterine cancer who blamed talcum powder for her cancers.

Two similar cases in New Jersey were thrown out by a judge who said the plaintiffs' lawyers did not presented reliable evidence linking talc to ovarian cancer.

More than 1,000 other people have filed similar lawsuits. Some who won their lawsuits won much lower amounts, illustrating how juries have wide latitude in awarding monetary damages.

Johnson & Johnson is preparing to defend itself and its baby powder at upcoming trials in the U.S., Goodrich said.

Boeing, Northrop get contracts for nuclear missile work

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force said Monday it has awarded contracts to Boeing Co. and Northrop Grumman Corp. for work that could lead to replacement of the nation's intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The contracts are part of a planned overhaul of the U.S. nuclear arsenal that will cost tens of billions of dollars.

The Air Force said that it gave Boeing a $349 million contract and Northrop Grumman a $329 million award to advance the technology needed to replace the Minuteman III missiles that date to the 1970s. The Air Force wants the work done in August 2020.

A third bidder was Lockheed Martin Corp. A Lockheed spokeswoman said the company was disappointed, and looked forward to being briefed about the decision by the Air Force.

Boeing and Northrop Grumman will compete for a much bigger payoff in 2020, when the Air Force picks a single company for the engineering, manufacturing and design work on the nation's intercontinental ballistic missile system.

The Air Force estimated last year that it would cost $62.3 billion to replace the Minuteman III fleet. The Pentagon's Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation office has estimated that it could exceed $85 billion.

The Air Force solicited bids last summer to begin work on replacing the ground-based Minuteman III missiles and air-launched nuclear cruise missiles, in what amounted to calling for a rebuilding of the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal.

Pentagon officials have said that the Minuteman III might not defeat air defenses that are predicted to exist in 2030 and beyond. But arms-control advocates have said the Air Force could save billions by extending the life of existing missiles instead of building a new system.

Both Boeing and Northrop Grumman have been involved in the ICBM program for decades.

Chicago-based Boeing has built long-range missiles for the Defense Department since Minuteman I in the 1960s. It said its work on the missile-replacement effort will be done in Huntsville, Alabama; Ogden, Utah; Heath, Ohio; and other locations.

Northrop Grumman, which is based in Falls Church, Virginia, has integrated technology in ICBM systems.

China's Great Wall considers bid for Fiat Chrysler Jeep unit

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese SUV maker Great Wall Motors is considering making a bid to buy Fiat Chrysler's Jeep unit, spokespeople for the company said Monday, in a possible ambitious new step onto the global stage for China's fast-growing auto brands.

Great Wall has yet to formally declare its interest in Jeep, but a possible acquisition would be in line with chairman Wang Jianjun's goal, announced in February, of becoming the top specialty SUV producer by 2020.

Great Wall "has this intention," said the public relations director for its Haval SUV brand, Zhao Lijia, when asked about a report by Automotive News that the Chinese automaker wants to buy Jeep. An employee of the press office for the company headquarters, who would give only his surname, Zhang, said, "Yes, we are interested in Jeep."

Zhao and Zhang said they had no other details when asked about a possible price. Zhao said it may take some time to assemble a formal bid.

Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne has said the company is for sale and cannot compete globally without a tie-up to a bigger partner due to the high costs of developing and marketing vehicles.

In a statement Monday, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV said it had not been approached by Great Wall.

Marchionne said in April that Jeep and Chrysler's Ram truck brand are strong enough to stand alone. The company spun off its Ferrari brand in 2015 into a separate business.

Chinese companies in industries from autos to robots are spending billions of dollars to acquire brands and technology to strengthen their competitive position at home and speed their development.

Great Wall Motors Ltd., headquartered in Baoding, southwest of Beijing, is one of a series of independent Chinese automakers that have grown up alongside state-owned giants such as Shanghai Automotive Industries.

If it goes ahead with a Jeep bid, Great Wall could become the second Chinese automaker, after Geely Holding Group, to expand onto the global stage by acquiring an established foreign brand.

Geely bought Sweden's Volvo Cars from Ford Motor Co. in 2010 and has launched a third brand, Lynk & Co., as a partnership between Volvo and Geely's Chinese brand.

In June, Geely bought a 49.9 percent stake in Malaysian automaker Proton and a controlling interest in British sports car maker Lotus.

In 2011, a state-owned Chinese automaker, Dongfeng Motor Group, bought 14 percent of France's PSA Peugeot Citroen, Europe's second-largest automaker.

Great Wall sold just under 1.1 million SUVs last year, behind Jeep's 1.4 million. Its revenue of 98.6 billion yuan ($14.4 billion) was a fraction of FCA's global total of $118 billion (111 billion euros), but its $1.5 billion profit was almost equal to the Italian-U.S. automaker's $1.8 billion.

Great Wall also can draw on strong demand in China, the biggest auto market by units sold. Total SUV sales rose 16.8 percent over a year earlier to 4.5 million in the six months ending in June.

Great Wall emerged from a collective founded in the 1980s to repair and customize vehicles. Wei, then 26, took control in 1990 and shifted into auto manufacturing. The company launched its first sedan in 1993 but narrowed its focus a decade ago to SUVs.

Wei said in February that the company's "globalization strategy" included improving technology to meet U.S. safety standards. But he gave no indication when Haval might export to the United States or major European markets such as Germany.

Great Wall shares rose 1.6 percent in Hong Kong, while Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV gained 2.8 percent in Milan.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
21,703.75	2,428.37	6,213.13
+29.24	+2.82	-3.40
0.13%	0.12%	-0.05%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.26	Hong Kong Dollar	7.82	Russian Ruble	59.01
British Pound	0.78	Indian Rupee	64.25	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.26	Japanese Yen	109.21	South Korean Won	1107.57
Chinese Yuan	6.53	Malaysian Ringgit	4.24	Swiss Franc	0.96
Euro	0.85	New Zealand Dollar	1.37	Taiwan Dollar	29.68
		Philippine Peso	50.28	Thailand Baht	33.18

Nation

Eclipse watchers: 'Really, really, really awesome'

Reaction to the total solar eclipse in the U.S.:

"The show has just begun, people! What a gorgeous day! Isn't this great, people?"—Jim Todd, a director at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Salem, Oregon.

"It made me all teary-eyed. It was just so momentous. Just really cool—and very pretty."—Robyn Mason, who watched with her husband, Greg, at the Lincoln Saltdogs minor league baseball game in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"Oh God, Oh, that was amazing. That was better than any photo."—Joe Dellinger of Houston who set up a telescope on the Capitol lawn in Jefferson City, Missouri.

"It's really, really, really, really awesome." Nine-year-old Cami Smith in Beverly Beach, Oregon.

"Everybody still got excited and cheered. It doesn't matter if it was really a total eclipse or not. Everybody came together."—Kimberly Boone, who watched a partial eclipse from the roof of the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee.

AP

Piper Truza watches a phase of a partial solar eclipse visible in Detroit, Monday, Aug. 21, 2017.

"It's almost like time slows down. It's only two minutes and you want to savor it, every little moment of it because it's only two minutes long. I can't wait until the next one."—Andrew Pattison of Los Angeles, who watched in Salem, Oregon.

"We were lucky the clouds broke. They moved in for a couple of minutes, but we got just a clean break. Perfect timing."—Russell Roberts in Kansas City, Missouri.

"It's like nothing else you will ever see or ever do, It can be religious. It makes you feel insignificant, like you're just a speck in the whole scheme of things."—amateur astronomer Mike O'Leary of San Diego in Casper, Wyoming.

"It was amazing. It looked like a banana peel, like a glowing banana peel which is kind of hard to describe and imagine but it was super cool."—Allie Stern, a junior at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

"I don't think many people get to say that they got a total eclipse on their birthday. So, I think I feel pretty special because of it."—Lillian Thompson, who celebrated her 32nd birthday by watching the eclipse outside Chicago's Adler Planetarium.

"It was just as spectacular watching how quickly it got bright and everything came back to life again."—Allen Winzler, of Cincinnati, who came to Hopkinsville, Kentucky with his wife and daughters.

Confederate flags in NYC window met with rocks, suit, tarp

NEW YORK (AP)—The Confederate flags had been in a Manhattan apartment window for over a year. And then, in a matter of days last week, they were met with hurled rocks, a punched-out window, a tarp hung over them and legal action.

By Monday, the lighted flags were no more to be found in the seventh-floor windows in the East Village neighborhood, where the Confederate symbol had been displayed alongside an Israeli flag and a colonial-era American one.

They'd attracted new attention after an Aug. 12 white nationalist rally to preserve a Confederate statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, spiraled into violence that left a counter-protester dead and stirred debate over where or whether Confederate statues and symbols belong in 21st-century America.

A man lobbed rocks at the building last week while he and others yelled for the Confederate flags to be taken down, according to video made by a bystander and posted on local news site DNAInfo. Another man, Darren Keen, put a fist through one of the flag-flyer's windows Friday night after getting to his fire escape from an adjoining roof, according to police, who arrested him on a disorderly conduct charge.

"I just lost my temper when I saw that Confederate flag," Keen said Monday. To the Nebraska-born DJ, the flag symbolizes hatred and intolerance, and it galled him to see the banner displayed across the street from an organization that mentors and educates disadvantaged, largely minority girls from the neighborhood, where funky-chic cafes and pricey condos blend with public housing.

Still, the 34-year-old said he hoped anyone else who feels the same way would "make a sign—don't break out a window."

The flag-flyer, William Green, didn't immediately respond to an email message Monday, and a possible phone number for him rang unanswered. But he has noted that he'd had the banners up for more than a year.

"I find all the alleged commotion while I'm on vacation a little suspicious," he wrote in an email that the landlord attached when filing a lawsuit against him Saturday. "Whatever the drama, 'this too shall pass.'"

The suit asked a court to force the flags' removal, saying Green had violated his lease and rent-stabilization laws by creating an "anti-social nuisance" that was causing "fear, civil commotion, violence, protests and unpredictable behavior."

Other tenants had barraged the landlord with complaints about being accosted and accused by people who wanted the flags gone, the suit said. It was withdrawn Monday.

Meanwhile, the area's city councilwoman, Rosie Mendez, cautioned residents in an open letter Thursday that flying a flag isn't illegal in itself and warned them not to break laws in response.

Still, the Democrat asked the flags' owner to take down "a symbol that is so offensive to the surrounding community."

Amid the flap, the flags and their top-floor windows were obscured Friday by a massive tarp hung from the roof, prompting the city to send building inspectors out to make sure the drape didn't endanger the public. The inspectors found the tarp was safely secured, Buildings Department spokesman Andrew Rudansky said.

The tarp, and the flags, then disappeared, though it's not clear how. A message left at the landlord's office wasn't immediately answered Monday.

Anger over rally violence boils over in Charlottesville

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—Anger boiled over at the first Charlottesville City Council meeting since a white nationalist rally in the city descended into violent chaos, with some residents screaming and cursing at councilors Monday night and calling for their resignations.

Scores of people packed the council's chambers, and The Daily Progress reported Mayor Mike Signer was interrupted by shouting several times in the first few minutes of the meeting. As tensions escalated, the meeting was halted. Live video showed protesters standing on a dais with a sign that said, "Blood on your hands."

After talking with members of the crowd, Councilor Wes Bellamy said the council would drop its agenda and focus on the crowd's concerns, the newspaper reported.

Speakers, some yelling and hurling profanities, then took turns addressing the council, some expressing frustration that leaders had granted a permit for the Aug. 12 rally that had turned violent. Others criticized the police response to the event, which drew hundreds of white nationalists and other counter-protesters.

The two sides clashed violently in the street that day, largely uninterrupted by authorities, until the event was declared an unlawful assembly and the crowd was forced to disperse. Later, a car rammed into a crowd of counter-protesters, killing a woman and injuring 19 others. The death toll for the day climbed to three when a helicopter that had been monitoring the event and assisting with the governor's motorcade crashed, killing two state troopers.

The event dubbed "Unite the Right" was sparked by the city's decision to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Neither a city spokeswoman nor a Charlottesville police spokesman immediately responded to questions from The Associated Press about reports that three people were arrested Monday.

At one point, the crowd chanted, "Signer must go."

Elsewhere in Charlottesville, dozens of students rallied Monday night at the University of Virginia in rejection of the violence. Video of the event streamed by the newspaper on social media showed students marching on the stately grounds of Virginia's flagship public university.

The event was billed as a "reclaim our grounds" rally and organizers said it was held to highlight the advances made at the university to end racism and discrimination in recent decades. The organizers also said via social media that they were seeking to send a message to the university leadership that more advances were still needed.

Earlier Monday, the man who authorities say drove his car into the crowd of counter-protesters Aug. 12 made a second court appearance. The Charlottesville Commonwealth's Attorney's Office said James Alex Fields Jr., 20, appeared by video Monday. It was his first hearing on a second set of charges filed against him last week.

Senior assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Nina Antony says a judge declined for now to set bond for Fields, who has another hearing Friday. The charges against Fields include second-degree murder. In addition to the death of 32-year-old Heather Heyer, police said, some of the 19 people injured when the crowd was rammed by the car suffered serious and permanent injuries.

Fields' attorney couldn't immediately be reached.

Asia

Trump commits US to fight on in Afghanistan; no speedy exit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reversing his past calls for a speedy exit, President Donald Trump recommitted the United States to the 16-year-old war in Afghanistan Monday night, declaring U.S. troops must "fight to win." He pointedly declined to disclose how many more troops will be dispatched to wage America's longest war.

In a prime-time address to unveil his new Afghanistan strategy, Trump said the U.S. would shift away from a "time-based" approach, instead linking its assistance to results and to cooperation from the beleaguered Afghan government, Pakistan and others. He insisted it would be a "regional" strategy that addressed the roles played by other South Asian nations—especially Pakistan's harboring of elements of the Taliban.

"America will work with the Afghan government as long as we see determination and progress," Trump said. "However, our commitment is not unlimited, and our support is not a blank check."

Still, Trump offered few details about how progress would be measured. Nor did he explain how his approach would differ substantively from what two presidents before him tried unsuccessfully over the past 16 years.

Although Trump insisted he would "not talk about numbers of troops" or telegraph military moves in advance, he hinted that he'd embraced the Pentagon's proposal to boost troop numbers by nearly 4,000, augmenting the roughly 8,400 Americans there now.

Before becoming a candidate, Trump had ardently argued for a quick withdrawal from Afghanistan, calling the war a massive waste of U.S. "blood and treasure" and declaring on Twitter, "Let's get out!" Seven months into his presidency, he said Monday night that though his "original instinct was to pull out," he'd since determined that approach could create a vacuum that terrorists including al-Qaida and the Islamic State would "instantly fill."

"We will ask our NATO allies and global partners to support our new strategy, with additional troop and funding increases in line with our own. We are confident they will," Trump said in comments echoed by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

Earlier this year, Trump announced he was entrusting Mattis and the military with the decision about how many troops would be needed. In talking points sent Monday to congressional Republicans and supportive groups, the White House affirmed that the troop numbers were up to Mattis and added that the administration wasn't seeking more money from Congress for the strategy in the current fiscal year, which concludes at the end of next month.

Trump Set to Unveil New US Strategy for Afghanistan
US President Donald Trump will outline Afghanistan strategy in primetime address after months of talks to win the war in the country.
Plan to Deal with Ghazni Insecurity Sent to Kabul: Mateen
US Must be 'Invested' in Afghanistan: Kaine
Sen. Tim Kaine says the United States needs to "make sure that Afghanistan is not a breeding ground for things that can come back and hurt us."
Etisalat Celebrates Afghanistan's Independence Day
Azizi Bank is one of the largest banks in Afghanistan serving the nation with 75 branches, 9 Extension Counters, 57 ATMs and 2 Cash Deposit Machines across the country.

AP

An Afghan man reads a local newspaper with photo of the U.S. President Donald Trump in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017.

Navies search for 10 US sailors as 7th Fleet review ordered

SINGAPORE (AP)—Three navies searched Southeast Asian waters for 10 missing U.S. sailors for a second day Tuesday as the Navy ordered a broad investigation into the performance and readiness of the Pacific-based 7th Fleet after the USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker collided east of Singapore.

Aircraft from the amphibious assault ship USS America and ships and aircraft from the navies of Malaysia and Singapore were focusing their search east of the city-state where the two vessels collided around daybreak Monday at an approach to a busy shipping lane.

The guided missile destroyer is now docked at Singapore's naval base and its crew is working on emptying compartments that flooded when the collision ruptured the McCain's hull at its waterline, the 7th Fleet said in a statement. Ship repair divers have also started assessments of the hull, the statement said.

It was the second major collision in two months involving the 7th Fleet. Seven sailors died in June when the USS Fitzgerald and a container ship collided in waters off Japan.

"It is the second such incident in a very short period of time—inside of three months—and very similar as well," Navy Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, told reporters at the Pentagon. "It is the last of a series of incidents in the Pacific fleet in particular and that gives great cause for concern that there is something out there we are not getting at."

Richardson ordered a pause in operations for the next couple of days to allow fleet commanders to get together with leaders, sailors and command officials and identify any immediate steps that need to be taken to ensure safety.

A broader U.S. Navy review will look at the 7th Fleet's performance, including personnel, navigation capabilities, maintenance, equipment, surface warfare training, munitions, certifications and how sailors move through their careers. Richardson said the review will be conducted with the help of the Navy's office of the inspector general, the safety center and private companies that make equipment used by sailors.

Source: AP Graphic: TNS

There was no immediate explanation for the collision. Singapore, at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, is one of the world's busiest ports and a U.S. ally, with its naval base regularly visited by American warships.

There was no indication the collision was intentional or that cyber intrusion or sabotage had occurred but the review will consider all possibilities, Richardson said.

The McCain had been heading to Singapore on a routine port visit after conducting a sensitive freedom-of-navigation operation last week by sailing near one of China's man-made islands in the South China Sea. The collision between the guided missile destroyer and the Alnic MC oil tanker ripped a gaping hole in the destroyer's hull on its port side aft, flooding adjacent compartments including crew berths, machinery and communications rooms.

It happened about 4.5 nautical miles (8.3 kilometers) from Malaysia's coast but the McCain was able to sail on to Singapore's naval base. Malaysia's Maritime Enforcement Agency said the area is at the start of a designated sea lane for ships sailing into the busy Singapore Strait.

Janes, a defense industry publication, estimated the hull breach was 3 meters (10 feet) wide. The 7th Fleet said damage control efforts prevented further flooding.

Five injured sailors were taken to a hospital in Singapore for medical treatment.

NKorea issues trademark fiery rhetoric over US-SKorea drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's military on Tuesday greeted the start of annual U.S.-South Korean military drills with its standard fiery threats, vowing "merciless retaliation" for exercises Pyongyang claims are an invasion rehearsal.

North Korea routinely issues such warlike rhetoric or conducts weapons tests to respond to the U.S.-South Korean exercises. Tuesday's threat came as top U.S. generals, including Adm. Harry Harris, the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, visited South Korea. Ties between the Koreas are almost always fraught, but anxiety is higher than normal following weeks of tit-for-tat threats between President Donald Trump and Pyongyang in the wake of the North's two intercontinental ballistic missile tests last month.

The U.S. generals were to travel to the site of a contentious U.S. missile-defense system in South Korea later Tuesday.

The North's military statement said it will launch an unspecified "merciless retaliation and unsparing punishment" on the United States over the Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills that began Monday for an 11-day run.

Despite the threat, an unprompted direct attack is extremely unlikely because the United States vastly outguns Pyongyang, which values the continuation of its dictatorship above all else. Impoverished North Korea hates the drills in part because they force it to respond with expensive military measures of its own.

The North Korean statement accused the United States of deploying unspecified "lethal" weapons for the drills that it says involve a "beheading operation" training aimed at removing absolute ruler Kim Jong Un.

"No one can vouch that these huge forces concentrated in South Korea will not go over to an actual war action now that the military tensions have reached an extreme pitch in the Korean Peninsula," the statement said. "Moreover, high-ranking bosses of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces flew into South Korea to hold a war confab. Such huddle is increasing the gravity of the situation."

Sen. Edward Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat who visited Seoul with other lawmakers, said Tuesday that a dialogue would be the best way to defuse the North Korean nuclear standoff though he argues the United States and its allies must be ready to respond to potential aggression by North Korea with "overwhelming force."

"Talking with North Korea is not a concession, it is the only way to reach an agreement to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and to reinforce that our military strength is there only to deter aggression and to defend against attack," Markey told a news conference.

World

Mattis: IS militants caught in Iraq-Syria military vise

AP
Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford arrives at Fort Greely, Alaska, Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017, for a refueling stop.

BAGHDAD (AP)—Expelled from their main stronghold in northern Iraq, Islamic State militants are now trapped in a military vise that will squeeze them on both sides of the Syria-Iraq border, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said.

Mattis arrived in the Iraqi capital on an unannounced visit Tuesday just hours after President Donald Trump outlined a fresh approach to the stalemated war in Afghanistan. Trump also has vowed to take a more aggressive, effective approach against IS in Iraq and Syria, but he has yet to unveil a strategy for that conflict that differs greatly from his predecessor's.

In Baghdad, Mattis was meeting with senior Iraqi government leaders and with U.S. commanders. He also planned to meet in Irbil with Massoud Barzani, leader of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region that has helped fight IS.

Mattis told reporters before departing from neighboring Jordan that the so-called Middle Euphrates River Valley—roughly from the western Iraqi city of al-Qaim to the eastern Syrian city of Der el-Zour—will be liberated in time, as IS gets hit from both ends of the valley that bisects Iraq and Syria.

"You see, ISIS is now caught in-between converging forces," he said, using an alternative acronym for the militant group that burst into western and northern Iraq in 2014 from Syria and held sway for more than two years. "So ISIS's days are certainly numbered, but it's not over yet and it's not going to be over any time soon."

Mattis referred to this area as "ISIS's last stand."

Unlike the war in Afghanistan, Iraq offers a more positive narrative for the White House, at least for now. Having enabled Iraqi government forces to reclaim the Islamic State's prized possession of Mosul in July, the U.S. military effort is showing tangible progress and the Pentagon can credibly assert that momentum is on Iraq's side.

Brett McGurk, the administration's special envoy to the counter-IS coalition, credits the Trump administration for having accelerated gains against the militants. He said Monday that about one-third of all territory regained in Iraq and Syria since 2014 has been retaken in the last six or seven months.

"I think that's quite significant and partially due to the fact we're moving faster, more effectively," as a result of Trump's delegation of battlefield authorities to commanders in the field, McGurk said. He said this "has really made a difference on the ground. I have seen that with my own eyes."

It seems likely that in coming months Trump may be in position to declare a victory of sorts in Iraq as IS fighters are marginalized and they lose their claim to be running a "caliphate" inside Iraq's borders. Syria, on the other hand, is a murkier problem, even as IS loses ground there against U.S.-supported local fighters and Russian-backed Syrian government forces.

The U.S. role in Iraq parallels Afghanistan in some ways, starting with the basic tenet of enabling local government forces to fight rather than having U.S. troops do the fighting for them. That is unlikely to change in either country. Also, although the Taliban is the main opposition force in Afghanistan, an Islamic State affiliate has emerged there, too. In both countries, U.S. airpower is playing an important role in support of local forces, and in both countries the Pentagon is trying to facilitate the development of potent local air forces.

In Iraq, the political outlook is clouded by the same sectarian and ethnic division between Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish factions that have repeatedly undercut, and in some cases reversed, security gains following the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003.

An immediate worry is a Kurdish independence referendum to be held Sept. 25, which, if successful, could upset a delicate political balance in Iraq and enflame tensions with Turkey, whose own Kurdish population has fought an insurgency against the central government for decades. McGurk reiterated U.S. opposition to holding the Iraqi Kurdish referendum.

"We believe these issues should be resolved through dialogue under the constitutional framework, and that a referendum at this time would be really potentially catastrophic to the counter-ISIS campaign," McGurk told reporters in a joint appearance with Mattis before they flew to Iraq.

With the Iraqi military's campaign to retake the northern city of Tal Afar now under way, Mattis has refused to predict victory. He says generals and senior officials should "just go silent" when troops are entering battle.

"I'd prefer just to let the reality come home. There's nothing to be gained by forecasting something that's fundamentally unpredictable," he told reporters traveling with him over the weekend.

Iraqi forces close in on IS-held town west of Mosul

HALABIYAH, Iraq (AP)—Iraqi forces made significant progress as they closed in on the Islamic State-held town of Tal Afar, west of Mosul, the U.S.-led coalition and an Iraqi military spokesman said Monday.

U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon, a coalition spokesman, told The Associated Press that Iraqi forces have retaken some 250 square kilometers (95 square miles) from the extremist group since the operation began early Sunday, though they have not yet pushed into the town itself.

"As we get into the urban areas - as we saw in Mosul and Raqqa - that's where we'll see the pace slow down, that's where (IS) have placed their defenses," he said.

Dozens of civilians fled the area. Sadia Sajet, from Tal Afar, said she walked for over a day to cross the front line and reach Iraqi forces.

"We stayed overnight by the river. There were a lot of dead bodies there. The smell was horrible," she said. "We slept there and then started walking again at four in the morning. And we walked until we arrived here."

Sajet said two other women fleeing with her died of exhaustion while attempting to make the journey.

The spokesman for the Joint Military Command, Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, said troops recaptured six villages located a few kilometers from the urban areas of Tal Afar. He said militants deployed suicide car bombers, road side bombs and mortars to slow down the advancing troops.

Citing intelligence, Rasool estimated the number of IS militants inside the town at around 2,000 fighters.

U.S.-backed Iraqi forces drove IS from Mosul last month after a grueling, nine-month campaign to retake the country's second largest city. U.S.-allied forces are currently battling IS in the Syrian city of Raqqa, the extremists' de facto capital.

Dillon said most of the territory retaken in the operation has been in the Kisik junction area to the east of the town.

Tal Afar, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) east of the Syrian border, is in one of the last pockets of IS-held territory in Iraq.

Some 49,000 people have fled the Tal Afar district since April, according to the United Nations, sparking concern the displaced will exacerbate the humanitarian crisis that erupted during the Mosul operation. Nearly a million people remain displaced by the campaign to retake Mosul.

WORLD BRIEFS

Italy quake rocks resort island of Ischia, at least 1 dead

ROME (AP)—An earthquake rattled the Italian resort island of Ischia at the peak of tourist season Monday night, killing at least one person and trapping a half dozen others under collapsed homes. Police said all but one of the people known to be trapped were responding to rescuers and were expected to be extracted alive, including three children. One person, however, wasn't responding, raising worries the death toll could increase, said Giovanni Salerno of the financial police. Italy's national volcanology institute said the temblor struck a few minutes before 9 p.m., just as many people were having dinner. The hardest-hit area was Casamicciola, on the northern part of the island. There was great discrepancy in the magnitude reported: Italy's national vulcanology agency put the initial magnitude at 3.6, though it later revised it to a 4.0 sustained magnitude. It put the epicenter in the waters just off the island and a depth of 5 kilometers (3 miles). The U.S. Geological Survey and the European-Mediterranean Seismological Center gave it a 4.3 magnitude, with a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

Somali extremist group confirms killing of senior commander

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—The Somali Islamic extremist group al-Shabab is confirming that one of its top commanders was killed by a U.S. airstrike in July. The SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors extremist groups, says al-Shabab issued a statement Monday confirming the killing of Ali Muhammad Hussein, also known as Ali Jabal. A statement from the U.S. Africa Command in early August said the strike on July 30 killed Jabal. It said Jabal was "responsible for leading al-Shabab forces operating in the Mogadishu and Banadiir regions in planning and executing attacks against the capital of Mogadishu." The strike reportedly hit an al-Shabab stronghold in the Lower Shabelle region of southern Somalia. Al-Shabab often carries out deadly attacks on high-profile targets in Mogadishu and elsewhere in the Horn of Africa country.

Focus

AP

A banner reading in Spanish "We are not afraid" is seen next to flags, flowers, messages and candles to the victims on Barcelona's historic Las Ramblas promenade on the Joan Miro mosaic, embedded in the pavement where the van stopped after killing at least 14 people in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, Aug. 21, 2017.

From age 3 to 80, Barcelona victims represent a wide world

By ANGELA CHARLTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS (AP)—An Italian father who saved his children's lives but lost his own. An American celebrating his first wedding anniversary. A Portuguese woman celebrating her birthday with her granddaughter.

These were some of the 14 people from around the world killed in vehicle attacks in Barcelona and the nearby seaside resort of Cambrils on Thursday and early Friday. They spanned generations—from age 3 to age 80—and leave behind devastated loved ones. The victims—who also include over 120 people wounded in the attacks—come from nearly three dozen countries.

Here is a look at some of them:

Francisco Lopez Rodriguez, 57, and Javier Martinez, 3, Spain

Francisco Lopez Rodriguez was killed with his 3-year-old grandnephew, Javier Martinez, while walking along the Las Ramblas promenade in Barcelona.

Lopez was accompanied by his wife Roser—who is recovering from her wounds in a hospital - her niece and the niece's two children, one of them Javier.

"He was a lovely man, kind and charitable. Everyone loved him," said 81-year-old Natalia Moreno Perez from Lopez's native town of Lanteira, some 700 inhabitants outside Granada in southern Spain.

"I knew him from when he was a kid, always telling jokes," said Natalia. "Terrible news, the town is in mourning."

Lopez emigrated from the town with his family in the 1960s to seek work. He lived in Rubi, a migrant town of 75,000 people northwest of Barcelona, and had been visiting the Catalan capital.

Leading newspaper El Pais said Lopez worked as a metal worker in Rubi and had been walking back from Barcelona port area when the van burst onto Las Ramblas.

"We are a broken family," niece Raquel Baron Lopez posted on Twitter.

Granddaughter and grandmother, 20 and 74, Portugal

The two were in Barcelona to celebrate the grandmother's birthday when they were caught up in the horror on Las Ramblas, according to Portuguese media reports.

They had arrived in the city for a week's vacation just a few hours before they were killed, Jose Luis Carneiro, Lisbon's secretary of state for Portuguese communities abroad, told reporters.

The older woman was reported dead Friday, while the younger woman was initially reported as missing before finally being identified Saturday.

Those hours left her parents in a painful limbo, Carneiro said.

The parents are "broken-hearted," Carneiro said. "Firstly, because they were caught by surprise by the death of the man's mother and then spent hours not knowing what had happened to their daughter. It's very tragic."

The family's names were not released.

Pepita Codina, 75, Spain

Pepita Codina's death was confirmed by Xavier Vilamala, the mayor of Hipolit de Voldrega, the town of 3,000 people where she was from near Barcelona.

Vilamala said on Twitter he was "very sad and distressed" by the news.

Local media reported that Codina's daughter, Elisabet, was injured in the attack, but is currently out of danger at Hospital del Marin Barcelona.

Bruno Gulotta, 35, Italy

A father from Legnano in northern Italy is being praised as a hero who protected his children during an attack in Barcelona.

One of his Gulotta's work colleagues, Pino Bruno, told the Italian news agency ANSA that he saved the life of his two young children—Alessandro, 6, and Aria, 7 months - by throwing himself between them and the van that mowed people down.

Bruno said he spoke to Gulotta's wife, Martina, and she told him her husband had been holding the 6-year-old's hand on the tourist-thronged avenue in Barcelona when "the van appeared suddenly."

"Everyone knelt down, instinctively, as if to protect themselves," Bruno said, adding that Gulotta put himself in front of his children and was fatally struck.

Gulotta was a sales manager for Tom's Hardware Italia, an online publication about technology. "Rest in peace, Bruno, and protect your loved ones from up high," read one tribute on the company's website.

Carmen Lopardo, 80, Italy

Lopardo, apparently the oldest person to die in the attack, was among three Italians killed in Barcelona, according to Italy's foreign ministry.

In a statement, it said Lopardo was killed in the "vile terrorist attack in Barcelona," without providing details.

News reports said Lopardo was an Italian who had immigrated to Argentina in 1950 and was visiting Barcelona.

Silvina Alejandra Pereyra, 40, Argentina and Spain

Argentina's Foreign Ministry says Pereyra, an Argentine-Spanish dual citizen who resided in Barcelona for the last 10 years, is among those who died.

It says in a statement that her death was confirmed through family members living in Bolivia after a cousin identified her body at a morgue in Barcelona.

The Argentine government expressed its deep regret over the pain caused to Pereyra's family and friends and said its diplomatic missions in Barcelona and Madrid are working to assist.

Luca Russo, 25, Italy

One of Italy's three victims in the Barcelona van attack is being mourned as a brilliant young engineer dragged to his death before his girlfriend's eyes.

A determined Luca Russo, 25, already had a job in electronic engineering, no easy feat in Italy, where youth unemployment runs stubbornly high.

"We were investing in him, we wanted to make him grow professionally," the Italian news agency ANSA quoted Stefano Facchinello, one of the partners in the Padua area company where Russo had worked for a year, as saying.

The girlfriend, Marta Scomazzon, who was hospitalized with a fractured foot and elbow, told an aunt that "we were walking together, then the van came on top of us."

Ana Maria Suarez, Spain

The Spanish Royal family sent condolences to Suarez's family in its Twitter account after Ana Maria died in the attack in the resort town of Cambrils.

According to local media, the woman was originally from the city of Zaragoza, and was on vacation with her family. Her husband and one of her sisters are injured in a hospital.

She is the only civilian to have been killed in Cambrils, where attackers wearing fake explosives belts were shot to death by police.

Jared Tucker, 42, USA

California resident Jared Tucker, 42, and his wife were ending their European vacation in Barcelona after visiting Paris and Venice, and were on their way to a beach when they decided to stop at a cafe on La Rambla.

Shortly after her husband left to use the restroom "all mayhem broke out," Heidi Nunes-Tucker told NBC News. She said she could not find her husband at first, and the friend they were staying with helped her search.

Later, they learned that he was among those killed in the truck attack in Barcelona, the only known American fatality.

Nunes-Tucker, 40, called her husband "truly the love of my life," and says she's struggling to make sense of the violence.

"It's hard not to be angry," she said. "It's confusing why anybody would want to hurt anybody like that."

Tucker's father, Daniel Tucker, said the couple had saved for the vacation to celebrate their one-year wedding anniversary, and had sent joyful pictures, the last of which arrived a day before the tragedy.

Jared Tucker, who worked with his father in a family business remodeling swimming pools, had "a magnetic personality and people loved him," his father said. He liked to fish, play golf and other sports and he was deeply in love with his wife, a schoolteacher.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson expressed condolences to the victim's family.

Jared Tucker leaves behind three daughters, his sister said in a message on a fundraising website.

Elke Vanbockrijck, Belgium

The local soccer club in her hometown of Tongeren held a moment of silence Friday night for Vanbockrijck, as members honored a woman who clearly left her mark on the team.

She was at the KFC Heur Tongeren soccer club "nearly every day" ferrying her 10- and 14-year-old boys back and forth to training and matches, said team president Arnould Partoens.

The family was on vacation in Barcelona. The boys and their father, a policeman, were unhurt, he said.

Team vice president Herwig Desser said coaches and players would stand in silence to remember her over the next few days "and talk to the children about what happened."

A picture of Vanbockrijck now rests on the bar inside the clubhouse.

Boy, 7, Australia and Philippines

Uncertainty surrounded the case of a 7-year-old boy whose mother was badly wounded in the Barcelona attack.

The Australian and Philippines governments said the boy was missing and his British father had gone to search for him. Catalan police, however, said all victims were accounted for and no one was missing. Spanish media reported the boy was in a Barcelona hospital.

He and his mother were in Barcelona to attend the wedding of a cousin from the Philippines, according to Philippines undersecretary Sarah Arriola.

The mother, a 43-year-old Filipino woman, was hospitalized. She had been based in Australia for the past three or four years, Arriolo said.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has asked people to pray for the boy, who has Australian citizenship.

"All of us as parents know the anguish his father is going through, and his whole family is going through, as they rush to seek to find him in Barcelona," Turnbull said.

The family's names were not officially released.

Good Housekeeping

On Gardening: Let your artistic nature flourish with fancy leafed caladiums

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

This year it seems the caladium has appeared in both landscapes and as component plants in mixed containers including baskets. The caladium has been a little cyclical in popularity over the past couple of decades, but innovative designers have shown us we just haven't pushed the envelope with the artistic opportunities.

In 2017 it's been extraordinary to see the caladiums mixed in the landscape with flowers, and foliage never before considered. At the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, one of our designers partnered Red Flash caladium with Blue Glory thunbergia for a delightfully tropical appeal.

TNS

Red Flash caladiums and Blue Glory thunbergia create a tropical appeal.

Mixed containers in upscale shopping complexes have become almost unbelievable. Some four-foot tall containers that are 3-feet wide are flowing with color. Carolyn Whorton caladiums, Sidekick sweet potatoes, Big begonias and Supertunia Bordeaux petunias create an incredible showy look.

Caladiums in mixed hanging baskets, however, that's a stretch for an old geezer. But imagine pink caladiums echoing the color of Mandevilla that were climbing the chain, Snow Princess lobularia and Techno Heat lobelia all made for a dazzling display that only an artist could create.

Like their cousins the elephant ear, the colorful caladium leaves originate from tubers and give that lush, relaxed tropical feeling to the landscape. Choose varieties correctly, and you can have them for both sun and shade. The choice of colors and variegation can seem mind boggling when making a selection, but they are oh so fun.

Caladiums will produce their exotic foliage until late fall making them a very wise selection for the dollars spent on summer color. Fancy leafed types produce larger elephant ear shaped leaves and are very striking while the strapped leaf types produce smaller leaves but many more of them per plant.

I like to plant caladiums in partial shade or morning sun and afternoon shade. Research at the Dallas Arboretum several years ago proved that many varieties are much more sun tolerant than previously thought, Red Flash and Aaron are two we are growing in the garden. But I also love Fire Chief, Postman Joyner, and White Queen.

No matter where I travel it seems the most beautiful caladiums are growing in raised beds rich in organic matter. This also points to the reason why caladiums do so well in potting soil in mixed containers. If you find yourself plagued with tight, compacted clay, by all means, loosen with compost or humus. Planting in raised beds comprised of a prepared landscape mix can also be successful.

TNS

A container with Aaron caladium and Red Carpet alternanthera creates a showy contrast in color and texture.

Since the goal is to grow pretty foliage there is no use in letting the plant use energy to produce flowers, so clip these as they start to develop. Water the plants deeply and often during the growing season. Try to avoid using high nitrogen fertilizers as this will encourage excessive greening of the foliage.

Even though it is late summer you could still get weeks of great color should you find a good buy on them at your local garden center. Your garden center might still have both tubers and potted growing plants. If you are buying tubers, select those that are plump and firm. Plant them about two inches deep with the point up. Most likely, however, you will be planting a gallon or six-inched sized container; set these in the ground with the top of the root ball even with the soil surface.

If you have been growing caladiums and cool weather is closer than those of us in Georgia, it is possible to save tubers for next year. Once the short days of fall start and the leaves begin to droop, clip the vegetation dig the tubers. Let them dry for a week, and then dust them with a fungicide. Store them at room temperature in dry peat, perlite or kitty litter. Try to keep them from touching each other.

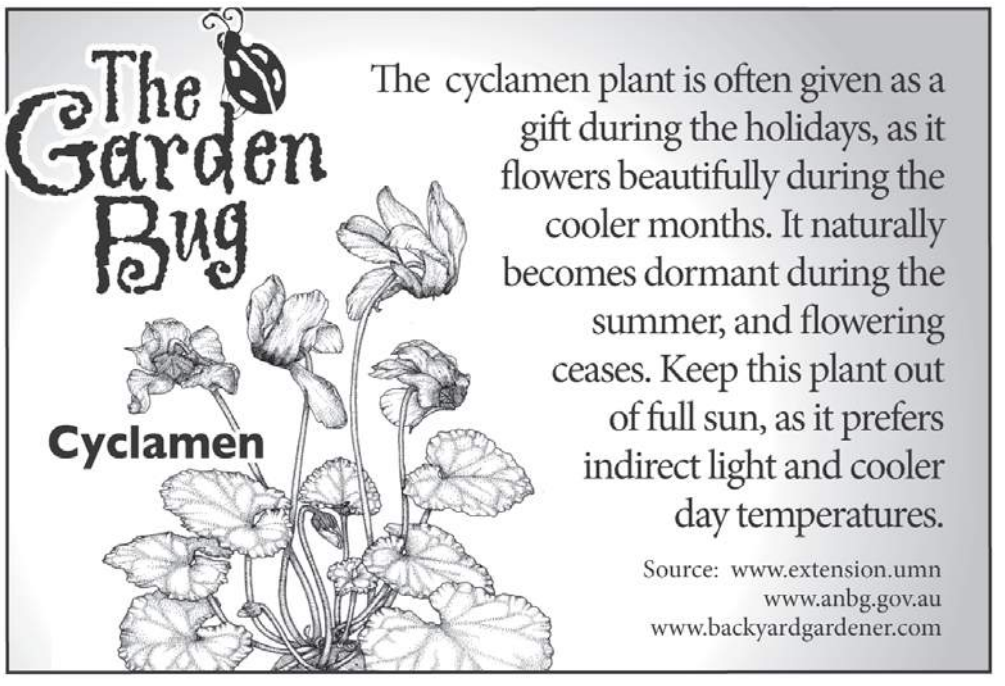
Regardless of where you live there is a season for enjoying the fancy foliage of the caladium. This may be a good time to evaluate whether or not you are trying all of the artistic possibilities.

TNS

Caladiums can be used artistically in mixed hanging baskets as well as containers.

TNS

Carolyn Whorton caladiums, Sidekick sweetpotatoes, Big Begonias and Supertunia Bordeaux petunias pack every inch of this large container with color and texture.


The Garden Bug
Cyclamen
The cyclamen plant is often given as a gift during the holidays, as it flowers beautifully during the cooler months. It naturally becomes dormant during the summer, and flowering ceases. Keep this plant out of full sun, as it prefers indirect light and cooler day temperatures.
Source: www.extension.umn
www.anbg.gov.au
www.backyardgardener.com

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Life & Style

James Cameron on 3-D 'Terminator 2': It's a 'thrill'

By RICK BENTLEY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Director James Cameron has always embraced the newest technology available when making his movies. For his 1991 feature "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," Cameron teamed with Industrial Light & Magic to produce the liquid metal special effect that allowed the murderous robot from the future, the T-1000 (Robert Patrick), to morph into multiple shapes.

There are only five minutes of computer-generated moments in the film but because the technology was so new at the time, it took 35 people working a total of 25 man-years at a cost of $5 million to create the special effects. It was one of the most aggressive uses of CGI to that point in movie history.

Cameron was so focused on new technology, he didn't give a second thought to making the movie with the older film process of 3-D. That wasn't in his plans in 1991. But technology has caught up to the way Cameron makes movies, and now "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" is being re-released theatrically in 3-D starting Aug. 25.

"It really just wasn't in anyone's consciousness because 3-D had been tried and failed in the '50s. It had been tried briefly with a couple of esoteric titles in the '70s like Andy Warhol's '(Flesh for) Frankenstein' and 'The Stewardesses.' But it was pretty much a dead art," Cameron says. "It was really the advent of digital cameras that made it possible to create a 3-D camera system that was somewhat viable."

That technology didn't come around until the late '90s, long after the original release of 'Terminator 2." Current 3-D technology has advanced so much that even moves that weren't originally filmed in 3-D can be converted. How good that conversion looks depends on the way the movie was original shot.

Cameron wasn't thinking about 3-D at the time but when he looks back at the filming of "T2," the director realizes that a lot of decisions he made in regards to the equipment he selected made it possible for "T2" to be transformed into the kind of 3-D quality he wants.

"I tend to always think – and compose – visually with depth in mind," Cameron says.

For a moment, the director, writer and producer slips back to his college days at Fullerton College in Southern California where he had enrolled to study physics. Cameron is certain that those days studying physics before quitting school to focus on the film world have affected many of his decisions as he has set up shots over the years, especially choreographing action scenes. Even when he's creating big action sequences, they all have to feel like they obey the real laws of physics.

As for how physics impacts his overall vision, Cameron talks about how there are the regular height and width concerns that create the standard look for a flat movie screen. Cameron takes his view of the film world a step further by making sure the scene has depth.

This is particular noticeable in "Terminator 2" when Sarah Connor (Linda Hamilton) watches children in a playground with the Los Angles skyline in the background. The scene already looked like it went off into the distance, an effect heightened by the 3-D adaptation.

"Anytime you put a little bit of smoke in the air, it's to separate your different planes of focus," Cameron says. "When you use a longer lens you are drawing certain things up that are depth cues for the audience. At the time I was making 'Terminator,' I happened to like wider lens so I was composing foreground and background and using a lot of camera movements.

"There's always a kind of lucid sense of depth in the image already."

Cameron realized when he looked at "Terminator 2" to evaluate whether it would be a good candidate for 3-D that the film had been shot to make it a prime pick. He had done the same thing with his box office giant "Titanic" in 2012, turning to Stereo D to convert it to 3-D to mark the movie's 15th anniversary. Cameron had been a critic of 3-D but the work of Stereo D changed his mind and he returned to the company to do the 3-D work on "T2."

Before Stereo D started, Cameron went back to the basics with "Terminator 2" by taking the original negative and making a 4K digital transfer to make the images look as clear as possible. Cameron even called on the original "T2" director of photography, Adam Greenberg, to make sure the color work was as near to the original as possible.

The one thing Cameron didn't have to worry about was the quality of the story of a robot from the future sent back in time to save the person who would one day lead humans in a war against the machines. "Terminator 2" has been constantly heralded as a great action movie but Cameron stresses that at the heart it is a "nuclear family drama."

He adds: "For me, I was working back from an ending about the Terminator becoming the surrogate father, in a way, for the boy. And the ending is basically 'Shane.' If you can cry for the Terminator when the Terminator has to go away, then that's what cinema's all about.

"Cinema is about taking you to a place you didn't think you were going to go even when you bought the ticket."

And he wants that to happen again 26 years later. The focus was to make sure the new image to be shown on theater screens looks better than the original 70mm print that was shown in 1991.

Cameron adds, "I think, given that most people know the film from video, this is on another level. There's an entire generation of fans of this movie that only know it from video. They weren't even born when the film came out.

Enhanced 'T2' is bigger, better that ever

By RICK BENTLEY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

"Terminator 2: Judgment Day" established its place 26 years ago among the top feature films ever made. Under the brilliant guidance of director James Cameron, the movie not only set new standards for special effects but flawlessly blended a tale of an apocalyptic event in the near future brought on by robots with a story of a very different family. Granted, the father in the scenario was emotionally cold, didn't understand love and focused entirely on his job but that's not too different from many dads in other feature films focused on family.

Cameron's script allowed plenty of time for both the sci-fi and human elements to be explored, but after only a few moments the action would be ramped up to cinema-changing levels. This was enough to earn the film six Oscar nominations with four wins. That's one reason the American Film Institute put "Terminator 2; Judgment Day" at No. 8 on its list of all-time great sci-fi films, behind the likes of "2001: A Space Odyssey," "Star Wars: Episode IV: A New Hope" and "Alien."

Those crass enough to only think of movies in terms of dollars and cents can look at how the movie earned more than $516 million around the world. There have been five films released in the franchise—including "Terminator: Genisys" in 2015—and none have earned as much money as "Terminator 2: Judgment Day."

And now, that total will go up as a new 3-D version of is being released in select theaters. The film features the best state of the art 3-D because Cameron used the same team that transformed "Titanic" to 3-D, and every frame has been digitally enhanced.

The result is an updated version that already started as a near perfect piece of filmmaking and has been elevated to new heights. Despite having been available on cable, DVD, VHS and in other forms for a quarter century, watching "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" in its new incarnation is like seeing it for the first time.

The film was a follow-up to James Cameron's "The Terminator," which he made in 1984 for a mere $6 million dollars, 1/17th the cost of the sequel. The original "Terminator" was a testing ground for Cameron as he established all the basic elements that he would be able to expand on seven years later.

He knew he had an instant film icon with the Terminator as played by actor-of-few-words Arnold Schwarzenegger. From his unrelenting efforts to accomplish his time-jumped mission to establishing the Terminator as a catch-phrase machine ("I'll be back"), the Terminator was the perfect film villain.

Cameron's amazing insight into the battle between good and evil took on new depth by taking this perfect killing machine and making him the savior in the sequel.

The only problem with switching the Terminator from good to bad was coming up with an equally powerful foe. That was established through some of the most advanced technology of the time to make the T-1000 (played by Robert Patrick) just as relentless and deadly. It's become a familiar movie trick to show actors morphing because the technology is so advanced now, but Cameron was working with computers that took days instead of minutes to create the liquid-to-solid special effects. The technology was ancient but the image is as purely entertaining and amazing today as it was when it shocked and surprised audiences years ago.

A reptilian tail? A solar eclipse. Taylor Swift teases fans

Who can eclipse an eclipse? Why, Taylor Swift.

Just days after going dark on social media, the pop star put out another clue Monday leading to a possible song drop on the same day as the big solar eclipse. And if the lyric-sharing site Genius was to be believed, the tune is titled "Timeless." The title was teased there but taken down later Monday.

As for the video clip that appears to be a twitchy reptilian tail, well, we're not sure how that might play into Swift's anticipated sixth studio album that all of her social media shenanigans seem to be leading up to, possibly in October to coincide with the anniversary of the release of her "1989."

The tail may or may not have something to do with all the snake emojis that took front and center last year on Swift's social streams, including when anti-Swifties used them in Instagram comments after Kim Kardashian West released audio recordings she said proved Swift gave West's hubby, Kanye West, the go ahead for a Swift reference in the song "Famous."

Swift wiped her Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and website on Friday, the third anniversary of the release of her "Shake It Off" single. ***(AP)***

AP
In this April 3, 2016 file photo, Taylor Swift arrives at the iHeartRadio Music Awards in Inglewood, Calif.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Coroner: Jerry Lewis death was from end-stage heart disease

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Authorities in Las Vegas say Jerry Lewis died of heart disease, but the wording of his death certificate differs from what was reported earlier. Clark County Coroner John Fudenberg said Monday that Lewis' official cause of death was end-stage cardiac disease and peripheral vascular disease. Lewis was the clownish comic hailed as an artistic genius and the host for decades of annual muscular dystrophy telethons. He died Sunday of natural causes in Las Vegas at age 91. Fudenberg says coroner deputies had been told Lewis died of ischemic (ih-SKEE'-mihk) cardiomyopathy. Ferozan Malal is the hospice and palliative medicine physician in Las Vegas who signed Lewis' death certificate. She tells The Associated Press that peripheral vascular disease and ischemic cardiomyopathy both fall under the category of end-stage cardiac disease.

Poet Jorie Graham wins $100,000 Wallace Stevens Award

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the country's most honored poets, Jorie Graham, has received a $100,000 lifetime achievement award. The Academy of American Poets told The Associated Press on Monday that Graham is this year's winner of the Wallace Stevens Award for "proven mastery" in poetry. Graham's books include the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Dream of the Unified Field." The $25,000 Academy of American Poets Fellowship went to Ed Roberson and the $25,000 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize was given to Patrick Rosal for his collection "Brooklyn Antediluvian." The Marshall prize honors the best book of the previous year. Thomas E. Peterson won a $25,000 translation prize for his work on the poetry of Italian writer Franco Fortini. Sam Sax's "Bury It" won a $5,000 prize for best second book of poetry.

Dudamel tour of US cancelled amid feud with Venezuela govt

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A four-city U.S. tour by classical music maestro Gustavo Dudamel is being cancelled following President Nicolas Maduro's complaints about the Venezuela-born conductor's criticism of the government's crackdown on protests. Dudamel's tour with the government-backed Venezuelan National Youth Orchestra was set to begin Sept. 9 near Washington before continuing to Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Dudamel on Twitter Monday called the cancellation "heartbreaking" and said he would continue "to fight for a better Venezuela." Dudamel gave no reason for the cancellation, but Maduro last week blasted the Los Angeles Philharmonic's musical director, accusing him of being duped by Venezuela's enemies into criticizing the government that has for years been one of his biggest promoters. Dudamel is scheduled to tour China with another government orchestra in October.

Cosby hires Michael Jackson's lawyer for sex assault retrial

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby has hired Michael Jackson's former lawyer to represent him at his November retrial on sexual-assault charges in Pennsylvania. Cosby's spokesman announced Monday the 80-year-old comedian is bringing in Tom Mesereau to lead a retooled defense team. Lawyers from the first trial in June had said they wanted off the case. Mesereau won an acquittal in Jackson's 2005 child molestation trial. He also has represented boxer Mike Tyson, rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight and a Playboy bunny. Mesereau will be joined by former federal prosecutor Kathleen Bliss and Sam Silver, who represented now-imprisoned former U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah (SHAW'-kah fa-TAH') in a corruption case. Cosby's first trial on charges he drugged and molested a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004 ended in a hung jury.

Rapper Mystikal surrenders on rape charge in Louisiana

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP)—The rapper Mystikal has surrendered to authorities in Louisiana, where he faces a sexual assault charge. KSLA-TV video-recorded the 46-year-old rapper, whose real name is Michael Lawrence Tyler, as he entered the Caddo Correctional Center in northwest Louisiana on Monday. Tyler was wanted on a warrant listing a charge of first-degree rape. KSLA reported that the allegation stems from an occurrence at a Shreveport casino last October. Online booking records show Tyler was in the correctional center as of Monday afternoon. Tyler was released from a Louisiana prison in 2010 after serving six years for sexual battery and extortion. Roy Maughan Jr., a Baton Rouge lawyer who represents Tyler in some matters, said he was uncertain whether counsel has been retained for the current case.

Stepmom feels squeezed out by father-daughter relationship

DEAR ABBY: I think my stepdaughter "Caroline" has an unhealthy relationship with my husband. Caroline calls him several times a day and gets tattoos just like his. When she got a boob job, she wanted to show him. She doesn't talk to me much, although I have tried to be close to her.

Caroline knows I don't approve of the way she gets money. She has a job at a local store, but wants things she can't afford, so she sleeps with men for money. Her dad seems fine with it.

They seem to have a closeness that he doesn't share with me. We are fine until she gets involved. She does things to keep her dad doing things for her so he doesn't have time for me. What should I do? I've talked to him about this, but he thinks I'm crazy.

DISGUSTED STEPMOM IN GEORGIA

DEAR STEPMOM: You are not crazy. Your husband and his daughter have a relationship it would be an understatement to call "inappropriate."

Caroline appears to be unusually emotionally dependent upon her father. That she would show him her newly acquired "boobs" may seem strange, but it's not shocking to me. Many women who get implants show them off to anyone who will look until the novelty wears off.

What I do find appalling is a father who would approve of his daughter prostituting herself. What does Caroline's mother think of all this? If she's living, she must be beside herself. If she's dead, she must be spinning in her grave.

Frankly, I'm not sure what you should "do." If it were me, I'd remove myself from the equation.

DEAR ABBY: Can you be stalked by your spouse? My husband checks my phone for messages, checks the mileage in my car, opens all the mail and listens in on all my phone conversations. If I'm late from work, I call to let him know, but he returns my call to make sure I am where I said I was.

He accuses strange cars that drive down our street of belonging to my boyfriends. He even went into the exam room with me while I was having a physical. The doctor asked him to leave for my privacy.

He says this shows his "concern" for me. I'm being smothered. Please help.

STALKED BY SPOUSE

DEAR STALKED: What your husband is doing is not a demonstration of concern for you. All the checking and accusations that there are other men in your life are symptoms of his insatiable insecurity and his need to possess and control you.

His behavior is not normal. He is sick, and he could possibly be dangerous. Please contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline and talk to a counselor. The toll-free phone number is 800-799-7233. You may need to create an escape plan, and someone there can help you do it.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

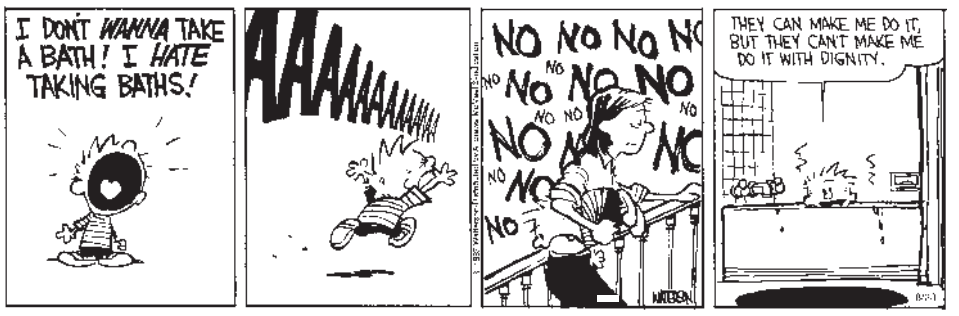
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

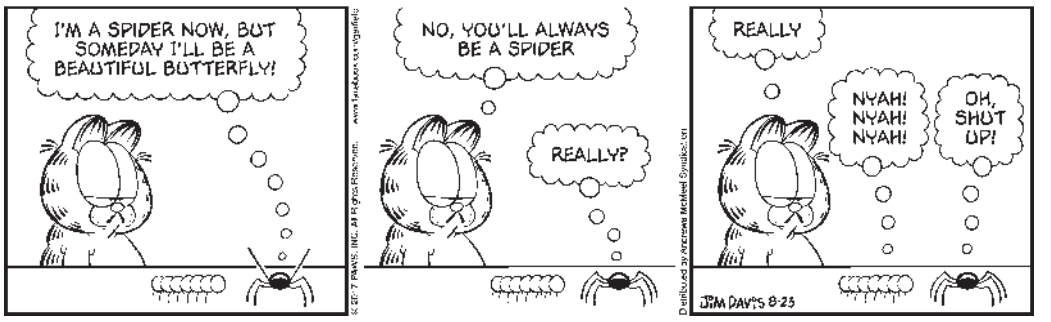
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I DON'T WANNA TAKE A BATH! I HATE TAKING BATHS!
AAAAAAAAAH!
NO NO NO NO
NO NO NO NO
NO NO NO
THEY CAN MAKE ME DO IT, BUT THEY CAN'T MAKE ME DO IT WITH DIGNITY.

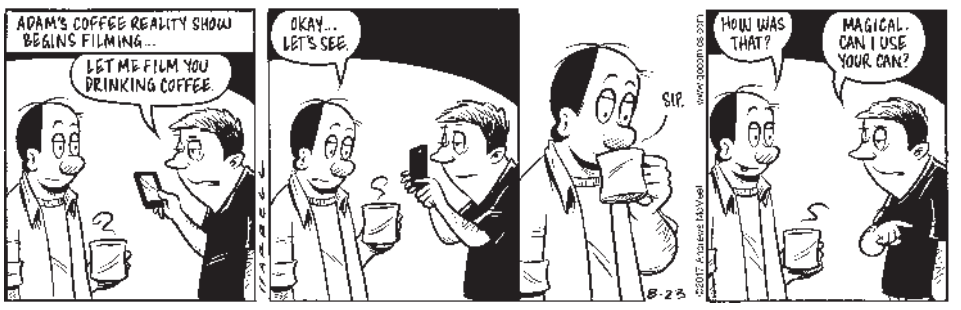
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I'M A SPIDER NOW, BUT SOMEDAY I'LL BE A BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLY!
NO, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE A SPIDER
REALLY?
REALLY
NYAH! NYAH! NYAH!
OH, SHUT UP!
JIM DAVIS 8-23

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

MMM...THIS IS THE BEST HAM SANDWICH IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
ISN'T THAT THE MOLDY BREAD AND STALE CHEESE?
OKAY, THE BEST HAM SANDWICH IN THIS LIVING ROOM.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — Lanka
4 Cote calls
8 Reedy
12 Calendar abbr.
13 "Oops!"
14 German car name
15 Ms. Thurman
16 Site of Mackinac Island
18 Hackneyed
20 Use a shovel
21 Wagers
24 Bush
28 Massachusetts
32 Actress Hatcher
33 Latin 101 word
34 Varieties
36 Flight stat
37 Belgrade resident
39 Fish with a prehensile tail
41 Sly one
43 Begged
44 Ultramodernist
46 Prepared
50 Selling point of a beach house
55 Churchill gesture
56 Withdraw gradually
57 "That's — need to know"
58 Unwell
59 Asta's mistress
60 Boxer Spinks
61 Quick swim

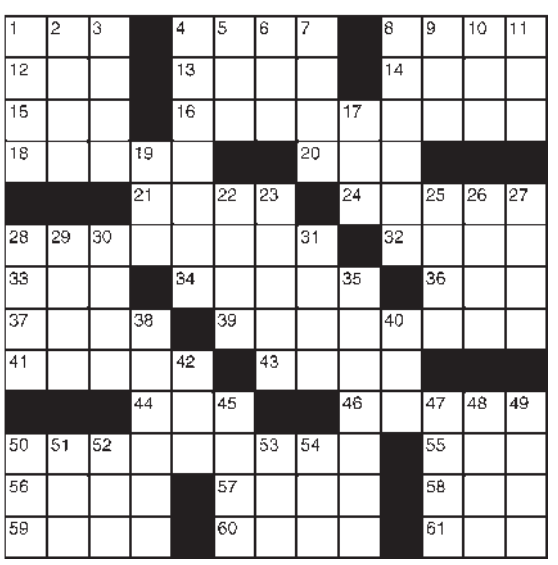
DOWN

1 Rebuff
2 Capital of Italia
3 Terrible guy?
4 Ammunition
5 "Eureka!"
6 Fine, to NASA
7 Lean-to
8 Instructed
9 "Ben- —"
10 Altar affirmative
11 Diarist Anaïs
17 That man's
19 Tummy muscles
22 New Mexico resort
23 Throat affliction
25 Bring up
26 Web addresses
27 Take the bait
28 Low range
29 Prayer ender
30 Days gone by
31 Listending abbr.
35 Williams' paint partner
38 Potassium source
40 Poem of praise
42 Boxer Norton
45 Ellipse
47 Eager
48 Sub shop
49 Canine cry
50 Have
51 Corp. boss
52 Hearing thing
53 — -de-France
54 "Xanadu" band

Solution time: 23 mins.

B	A	R	B		N	E	A	P		D	A	D
A	L	B	A		A	L	C	U		C	U	I
J	A	I	S	Y	U	U	K	E		N	N	E
			S	E	A	L		B	E	E	T	S
B	E	D	E	W			B	L	E	D		
L	S	A	T		S	N	O	O	K	C	R	S
O	A	F		W	H	I	P	S		A	A	A
B	U	F	F	O	O	N	S		P	L	U	M
		Y	O	R	E			A		S	L	E
F	I	D	E	L		S	A	N	K			
L	S	J		D	O	N	T	D	E	L	A	Y
E	N	O		L	O	U	T		R	O	M	E
W	O	K		Y	O	G	A		S	W	A	P

Yesterday's answer 8-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Lin, 29; Kobe Bryant, 39; Scott Caan, 41; Shelley Long, 68.

Happy Birthday: You have to figure out what you really want before you initiate change. Confusion due to the input you receive from others will make you waffle. Separate what you want to achieve from what others are telling you to do. You will have to satisfy your needs first and worry about others once you have a plan in place. Your numbers are 6, 11, 24, 26, 29, 35, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Engage in the projects, activities or events that will help you make good connections and allow you to display your talent, insight and ability to be a leader. Refuse to let anyone slow you down or pressure you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Personal changes can be made that will upgrade your appearance or keep you on top of the latest trend. Improve your workspace at home so that you feel more inclined to achieve your goals. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Money matters should be handled with a clear head. If you mix emotions with financial business, a loss is likely. Avoid unnecessary purchases and lending or borrowing money or possessions. Be willing to work hard if you want to reap the rewards. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Alterations to where, how or who you live with will turn out well. Discuss your ideas, plans and intentions with someone who can make a difference in your life. Don't be afraid to be different. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep your plans a secret until you have everything in place, and you will avoid someone trying to manipulate the outcome. An energetic approach to an educational pursuit or the changes you want to make at home will pay off. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Express your feelings honestly regarding a joint venture. Carrying someone else's burden should be avoided. Don't take on what doesn't belong to you unless you are compensated fairly. It's OK to say no or to ask for help. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep the peace at home and at work. It's in your best interest to tend to your responsibilities quietly to avoid being pressured or criticized by others. Don't make decisions based on what others do. Diplomacy will be required. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Share your ideas with someone special. Use your energy to get the legwork done so that you can move forward with your plans. Personal changes that will improve the way you present yourself are favored, along with travel, love and romance. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Listen carefully, but don't take what you are being told at face value. Consider the motive behind the information and you will recognize what's expected of you and how best to handle the situation. Honesty is the best policy. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You may want to make an impression, but pretending to be what you aren't or promising more than you are capable of giving will leave you in a vulnerable position. Be patient, use diplomacy and offer only what you can afford. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* A competitive situation should be handled with class. Take the high road and be gracious and humble. Your achievements will bring greater popularity, not because of performance, but because of the way you handle victory. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't allow anyone to put restrictions on you. Added responsibilities will be dropped in your lap if you are too accommodating. You won't gain respect if you let someone use you or take advantage of your kindheartedness. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, eccentric and kind. You are responsible and a worrywart.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3				
3	7		8	6	2		5	4
	4		9		5	8		1
	5		2		3			7
	6		4		1			8
	2	9				3	4	
		2				5		
			6		9			
			5	1	7			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	2	9	1	3	8	5	7	6
6	3	5	7	9	4	8	2	1
7	1	8	5	2	6	3	9	4
9	4	1	2	6	5	7	8	3
3	6	2	8	4	7	1	5	9
8	5	7	9	1	3	4	6	2
5	9	3	6	8	1	2	4	7
2	8	4	3	7	9	6	1	5
1	7	6	4	5	2	9	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SOURDOUGH STARTER Solution: 9 letters

N	P	E	E	W	K	N	E	A	D	A	Ⓔ	R	B	R
E	O	V	L	E	E	V	L	O	S	Ⓢ	I	D	A	E
V	P	I	T	P	R	X	T	L	Ⓘ	M	I	J	T	T
A	P	T	T	A	I	A	P	Ⓡ	E	B	O	S	I	L
E	I	C	O	A	E	T	P	A	A	M	A	O	S	I
L	N	A	B	K	T	P	L	E	N	T	S	T	T	F
A	G	N	E	L	C	N	E	U	R	D	S	A	C	H
C	N	I	T	Y	O	I	E	R	M	P	M	E	C	H
S	I	M	A	W	C	I	H	M	A	O	N	O	R	S
D	K	A	V	O	O	Y	T	T	R	I	V	E	I	E
H	A	T	I	L	L	L	U	A	B	E	C	D	P	R
G	B	I	T	L	D	L	G	M	R	I	F	E	E	F
U	E	V	L	I	A	E	O	A	P	H	G	I	E	W
O	S	N	U	B	D	C	R	E	T	A	W	R	R	S
D	R	A	C	S	I	D	E	L	B	U	O	D	F	T

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Aged, Aroma, Baking, Batch, Billowy, Bottle, Bread, Buns, Cold, Combine, Cover, Cultivate, Discard, Dissolve, Doubled, Dough, Dried, Expand, Fermentation, Filter, Free, Fresh, Glow, Inactive, Jar, Knead, Leaven, Multiple, Popping, Prepare, Ratio, Recipe, Repeat, Restart, Ripe, Rise, Scale, Sit, Smell, Smooth, Spatula, Taste, Thick, Vitamin, Water, Weigh

Yesterday's Answer: Powell

Treasuries 13 through 28 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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HOURLY RATE: Determined based on qualifications (plus overtime)

Applications are available at www.marianasgeotech.com, and at the MGS office in Dandan, and must be submitted by **4:30 p.m. on September 1, 2017**, to Chelsea Borja at admin@marianasgeotech.com or at the MGS office. For more information, please contact 234-7645.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DORIS M. DE VILLA, Petitioner
vs.
CHRISTIAN B. DE VILLA, Respondent

) CD-DI CIVIL
) ACTION NO.
) 17-0375
)
) SUMMONS FOR
) PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PO Box 505920 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court

SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance August 24, 2017 at 9:30 AM at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes from July 20th, 2017
II. Public Comments
III. Reports
  1. Administrator
  2. Chair
  3. COMMITTEES
    a. Committee on Awards
    b. Committee on Appeal/ Deferments/Forbearance
    c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
    d. Committee on Program and Development
    e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
IV. Old Business
  1. SHEFA on Disability
V. New Business
  1. Fall 2017 Application Status
VI. Executive Session – Appeals (closed)
VII. Misc.
VIII. Next Meeting
IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-07

SUBMISSION DATE: September 1st, 2017 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"SCANNING LAND MAPS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ HON. ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
RFQ-17-CHCC/CGC-01

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 23, 2017 **TIME: 1:00 PM**
BID OPENING DATE: AUGUST 23, 2017 **TIME: 1:30 PM**

"SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) TREATMENT SERVICES, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER (CGC), COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

COPIES OF THE RFQ PACKET MAY BE PICKED –UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!

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JVA#17-012: **Accountant II**
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• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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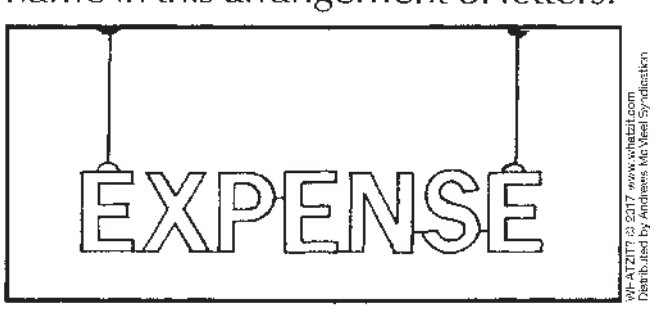
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Boldin turns focus from NFL to bridging racial divisions

AP
In this Aug. 8, 2017, file photo, newly acquired Buffalo Bills receiver Anquan Boldin makes a catch during passing drills at NFL football training camp in Pittsford, N.Y.

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Anquan Boldin didn't decide overnight he was going to quit football in order to speak out against longstanding concerns over inequality in America.

The recent deadly and racially charged conflict in Charlottesville, Virginia, did, however, become the tipping point that caused Boldin to reassess his priorities and led to the Buffalo Bills receiver's decision to retire after 14 NFL seasons.

"I think anybody with any sense can see how divided we are as a country, and Charlottesville only magnified what we were already seeing," Boldin told The Associated Press by phone Monday.

He was disturbed by the hateful messages directed at African-Americans, Jewish people and the LGBT community during a rally involving neo-Nazis and other right-wing groups in which a counter-protester was killed and two Virginia state police officers died on Aug. 13.

"That's not the America that I want to live in," he said. "And I think the only way that this America changes is that we as a people stand up and change it."

Boldin spoke a day after abruptly informing the Bills he was retiring some two weeks after signing a one-year contract with a base salary of $1.75 million.

The NFL's 2015 Walter Payton Man of the Year, Boldin is no stranger to activism and humanitarian causes. He oversees the South Florida-based Q81 Foundation, which offers educational support for underprivileged children.

He has lobbied for criminal justice reform at the state and federal levels since his cousin was killed by a plain-clothes police officer along the side of a Florida highway in October 2015.

Difficult as it was to walk away from football, Boldin felt he could no longer stand silent on the sideline.

"There's not enough money in this world for me to continue to allow the things that are going on to continue to spread," the 36-year-old father of two boys said.

"I will not feel safe leaving this earth and having my kids have to live in the America that we have today."

Boldin then challenged NFL owners and executives to use their clout to demand change and back many of their players who are already doing so by protesting during the anthem.

"You have your players crying out for help. That's the reason why guys are taking knees during the anthem," he said.

"Just because we're professional athletes doesn't mean we're exempt from the things that go on in society," Boldin said, noting his position as an athlete couldn't save his cousin from being shot.

"If I'm an owner and I see one of my family members—players—hurting, I'd do whatever I can to make sure that my family is OK."

Boldin's decision to retire coincides with what he witnessed during the anthem before Buffalo's preseason game at Philadelphia on Thursday. Eagles defensive end Chris Long showed his support by putting his arm around cornerback Malcolm Jenkins, who stood in silent protest with a raised fist. Bills backup lineman Cameron Jefferson was so inspired by what he saw that he also raised his fist on Buffalo's sideline.

Boldin ranks in the top four among active receivers with 1,076 catches, 13,779 yards receiving and 82 touchdowns receiving.

He spent last season with Detroit, where he had 67 catches for 584 yards and eight touchdowns in 16 games.

The former Florida State star spent his first seven NFL seasons with Arizona, then played three years with Baltimore and three with San Francisco. He helped the Ravens win the Super Bowl in February 2013.

Lions safety Glover Quin credited his former teammate for having the courage for ending his career while knowing he can "have a bigger impact to do something else."

"I tip my hat to him," said Quin, one of several NFL players who joined Boldin in addressing Congress last year. "One day, we'll be able to look back on it and say, 'That was the start of something great.'"

A day later, Boldin feels he made the right choice and pays no mind to those who suggest he simply stick to sports.

"I think it's absurd to tell a person to stick to playing football when the issues that he's talking about are affecting him," he said.

Earlier in the day in an interview on SiriusXM NFL Radio, Boldin said his decision to retire had nothing to do with the Bills trading their top receiving threat, Sammy Watkins, in a pair of blockbuster deals on Aug. 11 , or how the team's offense struggled in a 20-16 preseason loss at Philadelphia.

He also discounted the notion he might reconsider retirement and choose to play for a contender later this season.

"Do I feel like I can still play? Of course," Boldin said. "My passion for the advocacy work that I do outweighs football at this point, so I'm not coming back to play for a contender or to do anything else. I'm done with the game of football."

Browns players kneel in prayer during national anthem

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kneeling and bowing their heads, the Cleveland Browns bonded over something bigger than football.

More than a dozen players formed a circle on the team's sideline Monday night and prayed in silent protest during the national anthem.

The group, which included veterans, rookies, starters and backups, gathered in front of some water coolers and behind their teammates who stood on the sideline shortly before the Browns hosted the New York Giants.

In the aftermath of the recent racially charged conflict in Charlottesville, the Browns felt compelled to use their platform to make a difference.

"I wanted to take the opportunity with my teammates during the anthem to pray for our country," said tight end Seth DeValve, one of two white players to participate. "And also to draw attention to the fact that we have work to do. And that's why I did what I did."

Linebackers Jamie Collins and Christian Kirksey, running backs Isaiah Crowell, Duke Johnson and Terrance Magee, safety Jabrill Peppers, DeValve, wide receivers Kenny Britt and Ricardo Louis and defensive back Calvin Pryor dropped to one knee in a huddle. Rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer, offensive tackle Shon Coleman, punter Britton Colquitt, defensive back Jason McCourty and offensive lineman Marcus Martin stood and supported their teammates by putting their hands on their shoulders.

Colquitt also placed a hand over his heart as Kirksey led the group in prayer.

"As professional athletes, in our realm and with our platform, we can invoke a lot of change," said McCourty, who signed with the Browns as a free agent in March after eight seasons in Tennessee. "Guys are trying to do something to stand on our platform and show people that we want to stand up for this country and show that no matter what your color is, no matter what your background is, whatever, we can all come together and work together to make it a better place."

The protest was the largest so far in a social-consciousness movement started last season by quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who became a polarizing figure for kneeling during the anthem and is currently out of the NFL. In recent days, Seattle defensive lineman Michael Bennett and Philadelphia defensive back Malcolm Jenkins also have called attention to what they feel is racial injustice in the country.

Oakland running back Marshawn Lynch also has sat during the national anthem in the preseason, but hasn't elaborated on his reasoning.

Browns coach Hue Jackson, who last week clarified previous remarks that seemed to indicate he was opposed to any demonstrations, stood behind his players.

"We respect our players; we respect the flag," Jackson said following Cleveland's 10-6 win. "Those guys came to me and talked to me about it before they ever made a decision to do it. That is the way we feel about it, and we have talked about this. I said at some point in time, they may, and they have. I won't know about the next game until it happens, but again, this was tonight and we will move on from there."

DeValve, who is in his second season out of Princeton, said he and his teammates have had several discussions about recent racial tensions and other social issues.

He didn't want to offend anyone with his protest.

"It saddens me that in 2017 we have to do something like that," he said. "I personally would like to say that I love this country. I love our national anthem, I'm very grateful to the men and women who have given their lives and give a lot every day to this country and to serve this country, and I want to honor them as much as I can.

"The United States is the greatest country in the world. It is because it provides opportunities to its citizens that no other country does. The issue is that it doesn't provide equal opportunity to everybody. And I wanted to support my African-American teammates today who wanted to take a knee. We wanted to draw attention to the fact that there's things in this country that still need to change. I myself will be raising children that don't look like me, and I want to do my part as well to do everything I can to raise them in a better environment than we have right now."

Miller injury puts damper on Indians' bunt-error walk-off

CLEVELAND — Andrew Miller wasn't among the Cleveland Indians chasing Roberto Perez around the infield, flinging water and white powder to celebrate a wild win over an American League rival.

The Indians relief ace — a pivotal piece during Cleveland's run to the World Series last season — may miss a few more big moments this season, too.

Miller's injury put a damper on a 5-4 walk-off victory Monday night over the Boston Red Sox, a game that ended when first baseman Brock Holt threw away Perez's bunt in the ninth inning, allowing Brandon Guyer to score from second base.

Miller left in the seventh after aggravating the patellar tendinitis in his right knee. Miller spent over two weeks on the disabled list with the injury before returning Friday. This was his second appearance since.

Manager Terry Francona said Miller will be evaluated Tuesday, but it seems likely that he'll return to the DL.

"Hope for the best and hope that it's not a big deal," Miller said. "It stinks missing any time. I've already missed 12 days or something like that. I don't want to do it again. We'll find out more (Tuesday). See how I wake up."

"That's not what we were hoping for, but we'll let the medical people put their heads together and see what they can do," Francona said.

Miller began the seventh by walking Red Sox star Mookie Betts on six pitches — including a number of fastballs that failed to reach 90 mph — and then threw one pitch to Andrew Benintendi before walking off the mound. Francona and a team trainer had a brief conversation with Miller, who then left the field.

Miller said he was optimistic that he had turned the corner with the injury, but that changed when he entered the game.

"It was kind of not really crisp the first pitches," he said. "But the pitch I pulled inside to Mookie, I kind of felt it. And I threw one more and it was the same thing."

The left-hander is 4-3 with a 1.65 ERA and has 79 strikeouts in 54 2/3 innings.

After Guyer's leadoff double against Brandon Workman (0-1) in the ninth, Holt fielded the bunted ball and tried to throw out Guyer at third. Guyer slid into the bag as the throw skipped past third baseman Rafael Devers, then got to his feet and raced across home plate.

"It was just a routine play," Holt said. "I couldn't get it out of the glove, fumbled it a little bit, and then tried to rush the throw, and made a bad one."

AP
Cleveland Indians' Brandon Guyer (6) is congratulated by teammate Giovanny Urshela after scoring the winning run against the Boston Red Sox in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Cleveland, Monday Aug. 21, 2017.

Holt replaced Mitch Moreland, who was a late scratch because of a sore neck. Moreland took a forearm in the back of the head from Holt on a play Sunday. Manager John Farrell said Moreland passed concussion tests, but he decided to hold him out of the lineup.

Perez also had a three-run homer in the second inning.

Cody Allen (1-6) allowed Christian Vazquez's leadoff single in the ninth, but retired the next three hitters. The inning ended when shortstop Francisco Lindor ran down Betts' popup in center field with his back to home plate.

Boston led 4-3 behind two-run homers by Hanley Ramirez and Andrew Benintendi before Edwin Encarnacion tied the game in the eighth with an RBI single.

Eduardo Rodriguez allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings for Boston. Mike Clevinger allowed both homers and gave up four runs in 4 1/3 innings for Cleveland.

Jay Bruce was 1 for 4 in his first home game since being acquired from the New York Mets on Aug. 9.

Dodgers 6, Pirates 5, 12 innings

In Pittsburgh, Yasiel Puig homered in the 12th inning, helping Los Angeles top Pittsburgh.

Puig drove a 1-0 pitch from rookie Dovydas Neverauskas (1-1) over the wall in center for his 22nd of the season. The Pirates put runners on first and second with two out in the bottom half, but Ross Stripling retired Max Moroff on a liner to right for his second save.

Curtis Granderson hit a grand slam off Gerrit Cole in Los Angeles' five-run seventh, and Luis Avilan (2-1) pitched one inning for the win.

The Dodgers haven't lost consecutive games since July 20 and 21. The Pirates have lost seven of their past nine.

Diamondbacks 3, Mets 2, 10 innings

In New York, A.J. Pollock hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning as Arizona snapped a three-game skid.

J.D. Martinez had an RBI single and left fielder David Peralta threw out the potential go-ahead run at the plate for the Diamondbacks, who began the day with a 2 1/2-game lead over Milwaukee for the second NL wild card.

Pinch-hitter Gregor Blanco walked to start the 10th. One out later, Pollock sent a fastball from Eric Goeddel (0-1) over the center field fence to put the Diamondbacks back in front after they squandered a 1-0 lead in the seventh.

Fernando Rodney gave up a leadoff homer to Michael Conforto before getting three outs for his 28th save in 33 tries.

Jimmie Sherfy (1-0) pitched a perfect ninth for his first major league win.

Mariners 6, Braves 5

In Atlanta, Andrew Albers worked into the sixth inning for his second straight win since coming up from the minors, leading Seattle over Atlanta.

Albers (2-0) also had the first hit and RBI of his career — in his first big league at-bat.

The 31-year-old left-hander beat his former organization, having spent most of the season at the Braves' Triple-A club. He went 12-3 but never got a call to the big leagues.

Instead, Albers was dealt to the Mariners for cash on Aug. 11. He was called up by Seattle to make a start four days later, working six strong innings in a 3-1 win over Baltimore.

Now, after going just over four years between major league victories, Albers has two wins in less than a week.

Mike Foltynewicz (10-9) has lost four of his last five starts for Atlanta.

Orioles 7, Athletics 3

In Baltimore, Adam Jones hit a pair of home runs and Jonathan Schoop added a three-run shot to help Baltimore beat Oakland.

Wade Miley (7-10) held the A's to two runs, five hits and four walks over six-plus innings to pick up his first win at Camden Yards since June 17. Miley is 2-0 with a 1.38 ERA against Oakland this season.

Jones tied a career high with four hits and is one home run shy of reaching 25 for the seventh consecutive season. Zach Britton got the final out with two runners on for his 11th save this season and his 60th in a row.

Baltimore beat Chris Smith (0-3) for the second time in 12 days.

White Sox 7, Twins 6, 1st game
Twins 10, White Sox 2, 2nd game

In Chicago, Jorge Polanco hit his second three-run homer of the day as Minnesota scored six times in the second inning and routed Chicago to split a doubleheader.

Brian Dozier added a three-run drive off Carson Fulmer during the rally. Byron Buxton and Jason Castro each added a solo shot for the Twins, who have won five of six. They are a half-game ahead of the Angels for the second AL wild card.

Dillon Gee (1-0) retired the first 12 White Sox batters before rookie Nicky Delmonico homered leading off the fifth. Gee allowed only two hits and walked none through six innings. Tyler Duffey followed with three innings to earn his first save.

Polanco, who has five homers, hit a three-run shot off Derek Holland in the eighth inning of the opener to cut Minnesota's deficit to 7-6. In homering for the first time in back-to-back games, Polanco did it in consecutive at-bats.

Fulmer gave up six runs over 1 1/3 innings in his season debut.

In the first game, Yolmer Sanchez homered and drove in four runs, Jose Abreu hit his 25th of the season and the White Sox held on. Carlos Rodon (2-4) pitched effectively into seventh inning for the fifth straight outing to earn his first win since July 3.

Juan Minaya worked a perfect ninth for his third save.

Avisail Garcia had three hits and two RBIs for AL-worst Chicago. Abreu became the first White Sox player to hit 25 or more home runs in each of his first four seasons.

Tim Melville (0-1) lasted just 3 1/3 innings and allowed five runs in his Twins debut.

Rangers 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Adrian Beltre hit a three-run homer and Cole Hamels pitched seven effective innings as Texas cooled off Los Angeles.

Hamels (9-1) allowed two runs on three hits. Alex Claudio got four outs to earn his seventh save, despite giving up an RBI single to Mike Trout in the ninth.

Tyler Skaggs (1-4) was charged with five runs, four earned, in 5 1/3 innings. The Angels had won nine of 11.

Giants 2, Brewers 0

In San Francisco, Giants rookie Chris Stratton pitched six innings to run his scoreless streak to 12 2/3 innings over his past two outings, and San Francisco stymied Milwaukee.

It was a night of missed chances as the Brewers, who had won six of seven, dropped 2 1/2 games back of first-place Chicago in the NL Central.

Brandon Crawford hit an RBI double to back Stratton (2-2) in his fourth major league start after he won at Washington his last time out. The Giants earned their first home shutout of the year, becoming the last team in the majors to do so.

Milwaukee starter Zach Davies (14-7) allowed two runs in six innings. He took his first road defeat of the season after a 7-0 start, dropping to 14-4 away from home in his career.

Sam Dyson finished for his 11th save in 12 chances with the Giants, who beat the Brewers for the 16th time in 20 games.

Sold out or not, Vegas will party during Mayweather-McGregor

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The fight between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Conor McGregor may not have sold out yet, but that won't stop Las Vegas from putting on its party hat.

Sin City's nightclubs have booked a long list of celebrities—including one of the fighters—and high-rolling gamblers and VIPs have snagged some of the most luxurious accommodations in town. Boxing-themed cocktails have even been concocted for the occasion.

The social media-fueled Saturday night fight at the T-Mobile Arena will be a weekend-long, city-wide affair, though in some respects it may not tip the scales as much as a previous Mayweather fight.

"It's going to be a crazy weekend," said Ryan Thompson, senior vice president and regional chief marketing officer for Caesars Entertainment, whose Planet Hollywood, The Cromwell and Caesars Palace casino-resorts on the Las Vegas Strip have a few rooms available. "The energy over that weekend is going to be on par with a New Year's Eve in the city."

Caesars and MGM Resorts International, which owns the fight's venue, expect their properties to sell out as the weekend approaches. But unlike the bullish market created by Mayweather's fight with Manny Pacquiao in May 2015 in Las Vegas, hotel rooms are still available.

AP
Conor McGregor has his hands wrapped before a media workout Friday, Aug. 11, 2017, in Las Vegas. McGregor is scheduled to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr. in a boxing match Aug. 26 in Las Vegas.

The MGM Grand has cut its prices for the weekend three times, with a two-night stay now at $329 a night. Rooms at several other hotels on the Strip can still be found for $200 or less a night.

Many VIPs and high-rolling gamblers need not worry about prices, they will be "comped" with free hotel rooms and tickets, as it is customary. Others not so lucky—but certainly with deep pockets—have booked the most lavish accommodations on the Strip.

The villas at Caesars Palace (starting at $25,000 a night) and Nobu Hotel at Caesars Palace ($35,000 a night and previously used by the likes of Jennifer Lopez and Johnny Depp) have been claimed for the weekend.

"We get a ton of requests for tickets. We have plenty of our high-end players and guests who come in specifically for the event," Thompson said. "We put them up for the weekend and they will be attending the fight. We like to take care of our best guests."

McCarran International Airport spokeswoman Christine Crews said the number of private aircraft that flew in for the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight overwhelmed available apron parking and forced a taxiway to be closed and used as a jet parking lot. Crews said there is no plan to do that again this weekend but officials are requiring pilots to make parking reservations and encouraging the use of two nearby general aviation airports, in suburban Henderson and North Las Vegas.

UFC fighter McGregor will enter a boxing ring for the first time as a professional when he takes on the undefeated Mayweather, who is coming out of retirement for a fight that will make him tens of millions of dollars.

Just four days to fight night, there are plenty of tickets still available in the T-Mobile Arena, which seats 18,000 for boxing, and prices on the secondary market are starting to come down.

Ticketmaster has hundreds of non-VIP tickets ranging from roughly $1,400 to $17,000. Still available are VIP tickets that include hotel accommodations, roundtrip airport transportation, an official souvenir, food and drinks.

Those who can't afford what's supposed to be the year's hottest ticket can watch the fight inside six of the seven theaters that regularly host Cirque du Soleil shows, which are going dark for the night.

Restaurants, bars and strip clubs around town will also show the fight. Closed-circuit seats are available at various MGM properties, including hundreds for $150 each at the Park Theater just a few steps from the T-Mobile arena itself. By comparison, Mayweather-Pacquiao closed-circuit tickets sold out the day they went on sale.

Pay-per-view sales at $100 each are expected to be in the neighborhood of 5 million buys, topping the Mayweather-Pacquiao record of 4.6 million.

The city's sports books say this will be the most heavily bet fight ever. So far most of the tickets are on McGregor, who is about a 5-1 underdog, with the William Hill chain saying a McGregor win would cost them more than $1 million.

R&B star Chris Brown and his crew of dancers will perform at Drai's Nightclub on Saturday. Other venues will see performances by Puff Daddy, Jamie Foxx, Travis Scott, Chase B and Kaskade. The night before the fight, 50 Cent, Trey Songz and Jeezy will have a combined performance.

Win or lose, McGregor will have to party after the fight. The Irish MMA champion is scheduled to be a host at Encore Beach Club that night as part of a two-year agreement to entertain partygoers at the Encore casino-resort.

MASTERS

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look for another venue so as not to disrupt the games in the upcoming competition.

The masters league is tentatively set to kick off on Sept. 15 and interested teams are requested to contact Garcia at 989-6386 for more information. Updates and other details about the masters caging will be released as the tournament nears.

Meanwhile, Garcia will also organize an open league and he is looking to have at least 10 teams compete for the championship.

The open league has a target kick-off date mid October, giving interested squads more time to prepare and avoid rained-out matches at the outdoor San Antonio court. The 2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League was the last competition hosted at the outdoor facility with the Jack Lizama, Andrew Palino, and Dan Barcinas-led SSFM winning the championship after beating Arianne Fish Mart in the one-game finals, 105-83. Fourteen teams participated in the summer caging. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CNMI-LED

From Page 28

and the former delivered, sweeping the first three to put the game away.

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr partnered with Camacho and they started North Pacific's string of victories in the doubles play after topping the Tahiti duo of Hirinaki Lo and Guines, 6-3, 6-3. While the first doubles game was completed after only two sets, the second one wrapped up after three with the CNMI's Vincent Tudela and FSM's Joab Williams surviving the Cook Islands' Elijah Amataiti and Pavitt. The CNMI-FSM pair labored a 7-5 triumph in the first set over Amataiti and Pavitt, who then forced a super-tiebreaker third set after dominating the second, 6-0. In the deciding set, Tudela and Williams proved to be the steadier pair as they eked out a 10-7 victory to lift North Pacific to a 4-2 advantage, going into the last two doubles matches.

In the third doubles game, Carol Lee teamed up anew with Malika Miyawaki and they sealed North Pacific's win after beating Guitton and Schuster, 7-5, 6-2. East Pacific finally got a win in the doubles play when the Tongan pair of Peata Fatai and Brookie Maassi downed Guam's Anika Sachdev and Joycelyn Tenai, 6-1, 6-0.

In other results, Jimin Woo and Sean Lee gave North Pacific a good start in the U14 division, but the squad could not sustain its momentum, allowing West Pacific to steal the victory, 6-2.

Woo handed North Pacific its first win when he outclassed New Caledonia's Terence Winter, 6-2, 6-2. North Pacific then made it two in a row after Sean Lee stunned Vanuatu's Maui Leflon, 7-5, 7-5. However, Sean's victory was the last for North Pacific as West Pacific came out swinging and prevailed in the last six games.

New Caledonia's Clara Cwajebaum dominated the CNMI's Conatsu Kaga, 6-1, 6-0 to move West Pacific within one. Then the Solomon Islands' Zorika Morgan duplicated Cwajebaum's triumph when the former crushed Conatsu's sister Coume in the other girls U14 singles match to force a 2-2 tie.

West Pacific went on to break the standoff right in the first doubles play when Tuvalu's Kelese Kofe and Vanuatu's Warea Tigona beat FSM's Jerson Freddy and the CNMI's Seung Jin Paik, 6-4, 6-2. West Pacific also took the other boys doubles game as Fiji's Avikash Kumar and Leflon topped Guam's Andrew Leng and Thomas Ysrael, 7-5, 6-2.

In the girls doubles, West Pacific had a sweep, too after the Solomon Islands' Prudence Bird and Cwajebaum won over Guam's Kaia Malkooti and FSM's Ridianne Wolphagen, 6-4, 6-1, and the Solomon Islands pair of Morgan and Marion Goatee whipped the CNMI's Maria Gregoire and FSM's Anne Skilling, 6-0, 6-1.

Meanwhile, in the U12 division, East Pacific prevailed against West, 5-3, to secure the division championship. East Pacific wrapped up the round-robin team event with a 12-4 record, while West holds a 3-5 mark and North has a 1-7 slate. The North and West duel will be played today to determine the No. 2 finisher in the age group.

TINIAN

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"Our soccer kids enjoy free tickets to Saipan to play against other youth soccer clubs. They have also received free cleats, towels, socks, uniforms, sport backpacks, etc. We continue to receive community support but will need more for the sustainability of Tinian Premier FC," added Long, who along with technical director/coach Philip Mendiola-Long and club officials Rosalyn Accolador, Augusta King, and Terry Lazaro, are working hard to keep the program on Tinian.

Meanwhile, Tinian Premier FC would like to thank Saipan Soccer School and NMIFA president Jerry Tan for giving the club's two players the chance to undergo a training camp in Hong Kong last summer. Jared King joined the first batch of players who attended the summer camp from June 22 to July 5, while Charlene Danganan was in the second and last group that had its sessions from July 10 to 23.

"They enjoyed two weeks of soccer training and other fun activities in Hong Kong, including the awesome visit to Disneyland," Long said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	71	53	.573	—
New York	66	57	.537	4½
Baltimore	61	64	.488	10½
Tampa Bay	61	65	.484	11
Toronto	59	65	.476	12

Central Division

Cleveland	69	54	.561	—
Minnesota	64	60	.516	5½
Kansas City	62	61	.504	7
Detroit	54	69	.439	15
Chicago	48	75	.390	21

West Division

Houston	76	48	.613	—
Los Angeles	64	61	.512	12½
Seattle	64	62	.508	13
Texas	62	62	.500	14
Oakland	54	71	.432	22½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	74	48	.607	—
Miami	60	62	.492	14
Atlanta	55	68	.447	19½
New York	54	69	.439	20½
Philadelphia	45	77	.369	29

Central Division

Chicago	66	57	.537	—
Milwaukee	65	61	.516	2½
St. Louis	63	61	.508	3½
Pittsburgh	60	65	.480	7
Cincinnati	53	72	.424	14

West Division

Los Angeles	88	35	.715	—
Colorado	68	56	.548	20½
Arizona	68	57	.544	21
San Diego	55	69	.444	33½
San Francisco	51	76	.402	39

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guam helps NMI golf courses get USGA rating

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Representatives from the Guam National Golf Federation are on Saipan to assist the CNMI Federation of Golf Associations to have all the golf courses on the island get professionally rated under the U.S. Golf Association standards.

GNGF board members Andy Balajadia and Joe James, with Jay Huff and Duke Delisle as certified course raters, are the four representatives from the CNMI's southern island neighbor.

Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, Kingfisher Golf Links, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Marianas Country Club, and the Saipan Country Club are the golf courses on Saipan.

The three-day project—where the golf courses are measured to meet USGA rating— began on Monday and ends today with the group with CFGA members inspecting COP in the morning and SCC in the afternoon.

Laolao Bay's east and west courses were the first to be checked last Monday and the group inspected Kingfisher and MCC yesterday.

CFGA president David Largent said it has been 10 years since Saipan's golf courses were rated. "This [inspection] not only gets the courses up to date, but also allows CFGA the opportunity to offer official handicaps to Saipan golfers. We hope to include Rota in the future."

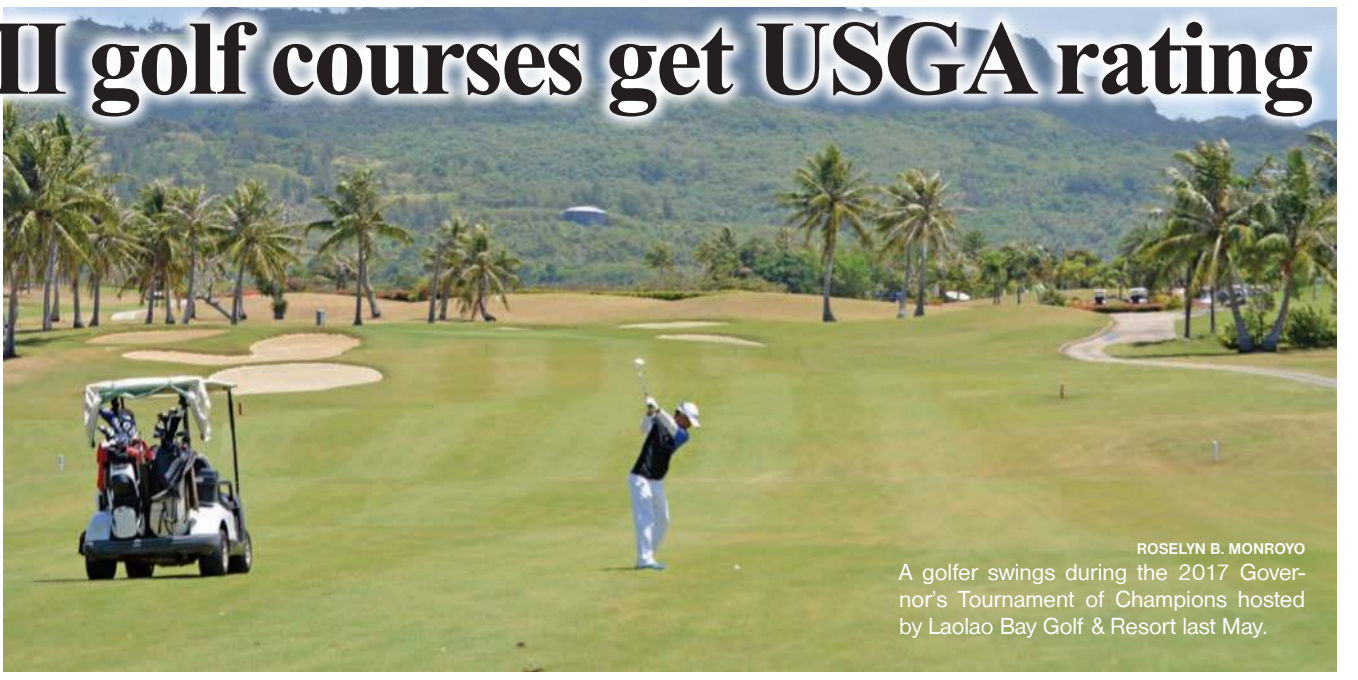
Largent added GNGF would also train Saipan representatives to become certified course raters. "So we could make any adjustments in the future ourselves under CFGA."

Laolao Bay operations manager Tony Satur, operations staff Joe Camacho, sales and marketing manager Paul Park, and local market developer Franco Santos; MCC course manager Thomson Palik and Pro Shop manager Lito Parulan; COP golf operations supervisor Maximo S. Concepcion Jr., and greenkeeper Justin Taitano; Kingfisher general manager Kosuke Sator; and Largent and CFGA vice president Ed Manibusan took part in the rating course.

The CFGA was formed in May this year as the umbrella organization with the various amateur golf associations in the Commonwealth as members. Its main mission is to strengthen the junior program in order to develop local golf talents for on island and international tournaments.

"We also wanted to support professional standards of our golf industry and promote golf tourism to share our fantastic golf courses to other golfers worldwide," added Largent.

Ed Manglona is the secretary/treasurer of CNFGA that has the Amigos Golf Association, CNMI Women's Golf Association, Marianas Golf Association, Refaluwash Golf Association, Saipan Golf Association, Fil-Taga Golf Association, Korean Golf Association, and the newly formed Marianas Junior Golf Association as member clubs.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A golfer swings during the 2017 Governor's Tournament of Champions hosted by Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last May.

Indoor volleyball set next month

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Indoor volleyball will be making a comeback next month with the group Saipan Volleyball coordinating the tournament.

Shawna Davis, who helped organize last Saturday's four-person beach volleyball tournament, said the games held at Sandy Beach were a fundraising event in preparation for indoor volleyball.

"It was a good turnout for the beach volleyball games. This was the first beach volleyball tournament since last year. In 2016, we held three indoor tournaments and one beach volleyball," said Davis.

"But a lot of people are waiting to have an indoor tournament and they have been asking about it. We hope to raise enough money to help pay the use of the (Gilbert C.) Ada Gym[nasium]," Davis said.

"Of course the registration fee of each team would also help in the cost of organizing the tournament," added Davis.

An indoor volleyball tournament was held last May, a fundraiser for the CNMI team's participation in the Micronesian Baseball Classic in Guam this year.

BTG and All About That Ace ruled the men's and women's divisions in the 2017 MBC Fundraising Volleyball Tournament. Both teams were undefeated in the tournament to claim the crowns in their respective divisions.

Last Saturday, Handicapped overcame the twice-to-beat advantage of Hitfaced to win the End of Summer Coed 4-Person Beach Volleyball Tournament.

Handicapped had to fight its way in the losers bracket of the double-elimination round to earn the right of facing the undefeated Hitfaced in the finals.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI-led North Pacific tops East

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Robbie Schorr eyes a backhand return during a local tournament this year at the Pacific Islands Club court. Schorr teamed up with Guam's Camden Camacho and they won against Tahiti's Hirinaki Lo and Jeremy Guines in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships Team Event yesterday in Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

North Pacific defeated East Pacific, 5-3, at the continuation of the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships Team Event yesterday in Fiji.

North Pacific, which is reinforced by CNMI players and also had Federated States of Micronesia and Guam netters as members, won three of the four doubles games in the U16 age group to prevail in its duel against East Pacific and remain in contention for the division championship.

After Day 2 of the team event and completing the round-robin contest North Pacific earned a 9-7 record to lead idle West (4-4) and East (3-5). The West and East match will be played today and the results in the final pairing will determine the winner of the age group.

In the North-East tiff, the opposing teams split the four singles games to make their showdown interesting. East Pacific made it to the board first when Tahiti's Jeremy Guines swept the CNMI's Ken Song in opening singles game, 6-3, 6-3. Guam's Camden Camacho then outlasted Samoa's Kristen Pavitt, 0-6, 6-3, 10-7, to knot the count, while the CNMI's Carol Lee put North Pacific in front following a 6-0, 6-4 triumph over Tahiti's Naia Guitton in the first girls singles match. However, East Pacific refused to yield when Samoa's Eleanor Schuster whipped the Commonwealth's Grace Choi, 6-1, 6-1, to tie the pairing anew, 2-2.

With the North and East teams back to square one, the doubles matches turned out to be the deal breaker

See CNMI-LED on Page 26

Tinian Premier FC gets the ball rolling

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian Premier Football Club had a head start for the fall season, kicking off its training sessions last week.

The club's girls U14 team, boys U15, and co-ed U8 have returned to practice last Friday in preparation for the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League, which will begin Sept. 16. Tinian Premier players trains every Tuesday and Thursday from 4pm to 5:30pm at the Tinian Elementary School Field and will continue with their schedule even after the fall league has opened. In the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's organized league for this season, Tinian Premier hopes to bring their teams to Saipan to play against the other NMIFA member clubs. Last spring season, the visiting squad came to Saipan every other weekend to play in the league.

"We are still waiting for NMIFA to split the games between islands so that Tinian doesn't play all games on Saipan. This would hopefully cut in half the high cost our club faces when we travel," Tinian Premier FC general secretary Arley Long said.

Last spring season, the fledging Southern United FC went to Tinian and played against the host team, while in 2016, Kanoa Football Club also vis-

See TINIAN on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tinian Premier FC's U10 players exchange high-fives with MP United players after their game in the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Masters, open basketball leagues in the works

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
JSN's Jerome Norita, right, takes off for a layup against SSFM's Jesse Santos during their semis match in the San Antonio summer caging last June at the San Antonio court.

Outdoor basketball action on Saipan may resume next month, as organizer Boy Garcia is looking at holding a masters basketball league at the San Antonio court.

Garcia said at least eight teams have already expressed interest in joining the masters caging, which is for players in the 40-and-above age group. MGD Construction, Armatech, PC Bargain, Fong's Bakery, and a team headed by Marlon Sison are on the initial list.

Initially, Garcia planned to have the masters league at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, but the facility is likely to undergo repairs and renovation in the remaining months of this year, forcing Garcia to

See MASTERS on Page 26